# Od Sandbach

AND



NEIGHBOURHOOD,

WITH ADDENDA ON

# Holmes Chapel.

AND

# Old Little Peover.

By W. J. Harper, R.A.I., (London.)

REVISED, ENLARGED, AND ILLUSTRATED EDITION.

ONE SHILLING.

Sandbarh: W. J. Harper, Fancy Repository, &c., High Street. Bolmes Chapel: Mr. Williams, Stationer. Sower Peover: Mrs. Bell, "Tabley Arms" Hotel.

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1894.

"Old vessels must leak, Old women must speak, Old men must advise, Old thoughts must arise, Old fashions be new, Old proverbs be true."



ruled through (not under) thum-ran

eadhguott kin hearnn o'r wy yn righidd Mae Baorna Sar yn bragoba (2007 Mae Allin Malleske ynain odd ar fau'i ystafa ewy Malleske ynain odd ar fau'i ystafa ewy

# OLD SANDBACH.

### A.D. 653=1086.

SANDBACH was originally a Saxon village in the kingdom of Mercia. Its inhabitants were converted to the Christian faith by the instrumentality of four priests from Northumberland, messengers to King Penda, about the year 653. These priests travelled about after the manner of the Apostles—on foot; and preached in the open country, in cottages, in castles, and in towns and villages.

It is admitted by eminent antiquaries generally that the crosses were built about A.D. 653, and were erected to commemorate the conversion of Peada, King Penda's son, to the Christian faith, together with the fact that Peada and his retinue halted at Sandbach on their journeys homewards to Mercia, and where his priests preached with such results that Peada was confirmed in his desire to mark that event, as well as his conversion, by erecting the now famous Sandbach Crosses.

The actual history of the town however practically commences with the Norman Conquest. In Domesday Book the name occurs under the form "Sanbec." The following are the entries of the Commissioners employed in pursuance of the mandate of William the Conqueror. Latin.

English Translation.

- (a) Ipse comes tenet Sanbec de ii virgatis et dimidia geldabilibus.
- (b) Isdem bigot tenet Sanbecd. Dunning liber tenuit ac (homo) fuit. Ibi i hida geldabilis et virgata et dimidia similiter geldabilis. Terra est ii caruca-Ibi est unis francigena cum dimidia carucata. Ibi presbyter et ecclesia. Silva dimidia leuca longa et XL per-ticae lata. Tempore regis Edwardi valebat iiii solidos. (Modo viii solidos).
- (a) The Earl (of Chester)
  himself holds Sanbec
  for 2 virgates and a
  half, rateable according to the gelt-tax.
- (b) The same Bygot holds
  Sanbeed. Dunning
  held it, a freeman.
  There is one hide
  rateable by the gelttax and a virgate and
  a half similarly rateable.

The land measures two carucates. There is a foreigner with halfa carucate. There are a priest and a church: (also) a wood half a league—1½ miles—long and 40 perches broad In the time of King Edward (the Confessor) it was valued at 4s. (in the present mode 8s.)

The writing of these entries is beautifully neat, and very little larger than ordinary print. The important words are in capitals with a red line ruled through (not under) them,—as though they were crossed out. Doubtless this habit was adopted by the scribes to save space; just as the many excellent

abbreviations they used were; and it is perfectly astounding what a large amount of matter there is on one of their pages. The entries given above afford examples in point; but others, not referring to Sandbach, afford better examples still.

- (a) In the first entry quoted the Earl of Chester is stated to have held Sanbec for two virgates and a half, which probably means that he provided two vicarages with fixed stipends, and went halves in another somewhere. Extra light on the Norman acceptation of the term would be much appreciated.
- (b) The second is more interesting in the light of modern events. When our new Town Hall was completed, Lord Crewe, who had given the site, caused a statuette of Bigot to be placed over the main entrance, with a companion statuette of one of his own ancestors, (Sir R. Crewe, who attained great eminence in his day), the County Arms, Crewe Arms, and Sandbach of Sandbach Arms, and other carvings. The entrance is of a consequence somewhat imposing.

Both entries in Domesday Book are found under the heading of the hundred of Middlewich.

The "hide" of land has formed a subject for much speculation. The estimates even of competent authorities vary from 100 to 1900 acres. Some think that productiveness entered into the question, but there is no exact knowledge obtainable.

So, too, as regards the words "gelt-tax" and "virgate;" and this is a pity, since their precise significance would render an elucidation of the entries simple, and add greatly to one's interest in them.

The "foreigner" was possibly a curate, and the predecessor of Steinulphus, the first Rector of the town, and the first Sandbach priest we have any record of.

He lived before 1128. No data with reference to the "wood" exist; but it appears probable that it commenced (1) near the present Factory Bridge, and ran along the valley to the National Schools at Sandbach Heath; or (2) that it began at Coldmoss Heath (the Coppice) and clothed the hillside, thence to Mr. Hague's Brook Farm in Betchton. A third surmise is that it may have reached from Ettiley Heath Station (N.S.R.) Road across the country to the same coppice at Coldmoss Heath. Any one of the above calculations would give the dimensions necessary nearly enough, and each district is still favourable to the growth of trees.

### Sandbach A.D. 1086=1584.

COMING to the reign of King John, we find the lands constituting Sandbach in the possession of Richard de Sandbach, who, in the year 1230, was Sheriff of Cheshire, and who held Sandbach of Richard de Blundeville, Earl of Chester. Disputes arose between these two later as to the right to present to the church of the town.

Sixteen "true and lawful men" were chosen to make a return on oath in the Earl's court, before Philip de Orreby, justiciary, Roger de Montalt, Wm. de Venables. Wm. Vernon, and a host of barons and knights of Cheshire. Of course the Earl proved his right to the patronage. On the death of Richard de Sandbach, his grandson, Roger, renewed the family claim, disputing with the Abbot of Dieulacre; and this time judgment favoured the De Sandbach plea. Eventually, however, the Abbot, to whom the right of presentation had been granted by Earl Randle, was allowed to present, but he had to pay 100 shillings to Roger and his wife, in the 43rd year of Henry III. Subsequent ratifications of this confirmation were made by Roger's descendants, and for a considerable period succeeding Abbots presented to the church without let or hindrance.

Passing on to the 2nd year of the reign of Edward II we find John de Arderne, the superior Lord of Alford, exercising his feudal rights over his ward Richard. son of Thomas, heir to Sir Richard Sandbach, and selling to Hugh Venables the wardship of Richard's younger brother. Richard married, and had issue Elizabeth, who married John Legh, of Booth; and it was their daughter Maud, who brought the manor of Sandbach and a moiety of Sproston to her husband, Richard Radclyffe, of Ordeshall, Lancashire The manor of Sandbach was subsequently sold by the Radclyffes to Sir Randolph Crewe in the reign of Queen Bess; and from him it passed (by marriage) to the Offleys, with the Crewe and other estates. A later marriage however brought the property again into the Crewe family, and the present Lord Haughton, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, now holds a Court and Seat, and is Baron for the Manor.

### Court Records.

ROM a folio volume containing the records of the Courts for the manor of Sandbach, between the years 1569 and 1585, the following entries have been selected as of special local interest.

(1) In the year 1579, "Margaret Sharman, and Grace (the Vicar's maiden), did fight at the well, upon slanderous speeches gyven out by Grace against Margaret Sharman's mother;" and "that the said Margaret Sharman made a fraye on Anne Shaw at the well," and "that the latter fraye was upon a like occasion" with the former.

(2) In October 1583, thirty-two local landowners and gentlemen were indicted for "bowling upon the common green or commons, contrary to the statute," for which each person was liable to a fine of 3s. 4d.; and several of them were again "presented" for the same offence in April, 1584.

The statute in question provided "that no man play at any unlawful game insatiably,—unless he can dispend C. li. p. an. (£100 per annum) in lands, fees, or offices, for life at least; and he may not play neither in any open place where every one that will may see him, but in his house, or in his orchard or garden, upon paine of 6s. 8d. for every time."



### The Ancient Crosses.

#### PRELIMINARY NOTE.

BEFORE entering minutely into a description of the carvings on our interesting relics, it may be noted that the Crosses were erected so that their four sides faced respectively North, South, East, and West, and that this fact seems to have been overlooked by all the celebrated antiquaries who have visited the town on various occasions.

Near the base of the larger obelisk will be found a circle enclosing several figures. The significance of this circle has also been overlooked. Dr. Ormerod even, gives it only a mention in his well-known description of the carvings.

Now this circle is so placed as to face due East, which is apparently an ecclesiastical suggestion of "sunrise;" and it is similar to other carvings on monumental obelisks in the various places where sun-worship once prevailed. To moderns, it is doubly interesting because of its very natural connection with our own customs and thoughts re the story of the passion; and it may be regarded as a symbol of the Sun of Righteousness who is destined

"To rule where'er the sun
Doth his successive journeys run."

All the principal events in Christ's life are depicted on the obelisks; and a careful survey of the whole of the designs will show that there is no other circle, and that, further, all other subjects are chiefly enclosed in square panels, some of which have a semi-circular addition at the top. We may conclude then, that the circle adds a distinct interest to the study of design of these sacred monuments.

### Description of the Carvings.

#### THE LARGER OBELISK

- (1) chiefly deals with scriptural subjects. On its East side, near the base, and within a circle, is the salutation of Elizabeth by her cousin Mary; above this circle is the Annunciation, with the holy Ghost descending upon the Virgin Mary in the form of a bird with extended wings.
- (2) A little above this is the birth of Christ, a child in swaddling clothes; on each side is an ox looking into the manger; behind is an angel, whose wings overshadow the whole.
- (3) Immediately above the head of the angel is the crucifixion. At the foot of the Cross are Mary of Cleophas and Mary Magdalene. In each quarter formed by transverse sections of the cross are the emblems of the four Evangelists:—in the upper dexter-quarter, an angel for S. Matthew; in the opposite, a lion for S. Mark; in the lower dexter-quarter, a bull for S. Luke; and in the last, an eagle for S. John.
- (4) Above this Cross is Pilate, seated in the Judgment Hall; in front of him is Christ bound; over the head of Christ is a man with his head downwards (presumed to represent the fall of the traitor Judas).
- (5) Still higher up are implements of the passion,—hammer, pincers, etc. At the top are figures of men, much mutilated.
- (6) At the base of the West side of this obelisk is a plain cross, beneath the cross-bar of which are two dread, fiend-like animals in the act of biting upwards. The tail of one is fretted and terminates with a snake's head, placed in an angle, formed by the enlarged foot of the cross sloping off to the marginal moulding in cheveron form; the tail of the other is

much mutilated. Above the cross-bar are two angels which are difficult of recognition owing to the rough way in which the Crosses were thrown down in the 17th Century.

- (7) Rising in the perpendicular, and separated from the angels by a stone interpolation is the archangel Gabriel appearing to Zachariah in the temple, where he is seated on a chair, struck dumb.
- (8) Above these is a man walking with a club in his hand, followed by Simon of Cyrene carrying over his shoulder a cross.
- (9) Higher still is a figure of Christ bound by the hands with a cord which extends over the shoulders of a man in front who is dragging Him before Pilate.
- (9A) There are also four mutilated figures of men above these last sections.
- (10) Commencing from the top of the South side, about one-third of the surface downwards is covered with delicate intersectional filigree work.
- (10A) While one of the ends terminates with the figure of an animal, the other runs to the bottom in an undulating line, interspersed with branches, and animals of the nondescript kind. (10B) In the midst is a man (probably John the Baptist, in the wilderness).
- (11) The North side is occupied with the descent of the Holy Ghost, in the shape of a thrice cloven tongue, on the Apostles, who are severally placed in narrow cells, in a double row, from the base to about four-sevenths of the way up. The division on which each stands is cut off on one hand so as not to touch the sides, thus leaving an uninterrupted communication between each part,—a point which is unobservable on any other surface. The uppermost Apostle is leaning over the upright division and looking down upon the figures on the

opposite side from that on which he stands; (IIA) whilst the thrice cloven tongue immediately over his back and head issues from the mouth of a figure not unlike a fish, the tail of which runs in an undulating line upwards to the top.

(12) This obelisk was originally surmounted with a sculptured stone four feet in diameter, not half of which remains to-day, though there is still enough evidence to show that its original shape was circular, that it was figured like the surfaces of both obelisks, and that in all prebability it contained a skilfully sculptured inner cross or figure, or both.

#### THE SMALLER OBELISK

seems to deal chiefly with the subject of Peada,† and the conversion of his people to Christianity.

- (A) The North side is divided into a double row of cells, in each the figure of a man in the act of walking; some have daggers in the right or left hand, others are without them, which most likely represents Peada setting out from Mercia with all his nobility and attendants to solicit the hand of King Oswy's daughter, in Northumberland. At the top is a double dragon with the tongues skilfully interlaced.
- (B) On the West side are triple groups of figures in small cells, some kneeling, some standing.
- (C) At the bottom are angels looking upward towards the groups and (C1) above them are three figures with a dove descending upon the left shoulder of the central one. This possibly represents Peada with his followers submitting to the formulæ of Christian baptism.

<sup>+</sup> King Penda's Son.

<sup>&</sup>amp; Oswy the last Bretwalda.

- (D) The parts above this are so much mutilated that they cannot be deciphered.
- (E) On the South side occur figures and cells similar to those on the north, with this difference, that here as well as on the west side, the top and bottom of each cell consists of an arch instead of a straight line; and the figures are now represented with staves in their right or left hands in lieu of daggers. This, in all likelihood, is indicative of Peada's abandonment of barbaric customs for the altruistic principles of the Christian religion.
- (F) The East side is divided into five lozenge (diamond-shaped) compartments, but originally there were more. Each interstice contains the figure of a man or an animal not decipherable.
- (G) In the uppermost existing lozenge is the figure of a bull with his head reflected on his back.
- (H) The top part of the lozenge beneath it contains the figure of a man with his hands stuck in his sides, and his legs extended from one side to the other; and below him two men endorsed.
- (1) The next lozenge downwards is partly mutilated through demolition, but appears to have contained figures of the reptile order.
- (K) The first and second lozenges from the base of the obelisk each show a man with a club under his right arm.
- (L) All the subjects on the east and west sides are enclosed in a margin of exquisite fretwork, laced, gnawed, and indented in varied and beautiful patterns of the most excellent design and workmanship. The mutilation of the edges has, however, been so great that the closest examination brings out but imperfectly the complete designs.
- (LI) It is, nevertheless, clear that a well-known Saxon ornament, the cable

moulding, runs from the bottom to the topof the four edges of each obelisk; and it should be stated that this obelisk also issurmounted with the remains of what was originally a stone cross with dwarfed arms, and that the side at present facingthe East shows the inverted figure of a man.

### Measurements.

THE substructure is a platform of two steps, with two sockets cut in the solid stone, in these, the obelisks are fixed. At each of the four corners of the stage-like platform is a stone post on which rude figures have been carved, but these are not decipherable. In fact, I never could satisfy myself that these pillars are in their right position.

The dimensions of the monuments are:-

Height of Platform including Sockets, 5ft. 6in.

" Smaller Obelisk......IIft.IIin.

Extreme Height from the Ground.....2ft. 2in. Base of Large Pillar.....2ft. 7in. x 1ft. 10in.

" Smaller Pillar ... 2it. 11in. x 1ft. 81in.

on the top of the larger obelisk ten inchesremain of the circle which evidently once adorned the obelisk. Fourteen inches of the top ornament of smaller obelisk still remain, but the exact deficiency in it cannot be calculated.

#### Notes.

N Kings "Vale Royal" it is said, that the following lines are engraved on the small cross; "which could not be read unless a man be held with his head downwards":—

"In Sanbache, in the Sandy Ford
Lieth the ninth part of Dublin's lord;
Nine to, and nine fro',
Take me down, or else I fall."

'It is further averred that on the same monument the following lines are engraved in old English letters:—

"With awful steps approach this shrine, Sacred to Druid erst divine; Here ancient Virtue still preserve, Nor ever from its precepts swerve."

It is difficult to trace either of the above inscriptions.

A few years ago, lines were discovered in a copy-book, at the Providence school, Sandbach, entitled:—

"Address to the Sandbach Crosses," (By Richard Smetham).

(Original date of Composition Dec. 5th, 1845).

They had been copied into the book by Samuel Maddock, and there are about ninety lines. This is the second stanza:—

"How were you built? Why? what kind of story

Were you ordained to tell to future time,
Was it of martyrdom, or love, or glory,
Or saintlier, much respected crime?
Was it a monk, or only a lay mason,
Who put you such a queer old-fashioned
face on?"

# THE RESTORATION.

## Re-Building the Crosses.

DETAILS OF THE YEAR 1816.

AN old account book containing particulars of Sandbach town finances still exists, but at the time the extracts that follow were obtained, it was in a most dilapidated condition, and had evidently been used for some time as a target, for in some places the spiked arrows had nearly perforated both covers as well as the leaves. It is strange that more care is not taken of old and interesting books and other documents of public interest in this nineteenth century; for it is certain that from

them much insight into the history of a place may be obtained—more than, perhaps, can be obtained elsewhere.

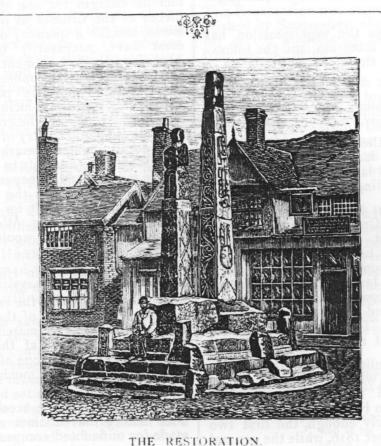
The extracts in question will deal mainly with the Restoration of the Crosses in the years 1815 and 1816, though the time-stained and abused pages go back to 1780.

For the year ending Michaelmas, 1816, Peter Rathbone and Ralph Percival were joint surveyors of the highways for the township; and from their accounts it appears that the Restoration Fund was raised partly by subscription, and—(an inference) -partly by assistance from the rates. The amount of subscription reached £19 5s. od., and the total cost

of collecting the scattered parts of, and of re-erecting the Crosses, was £37 5s. 4d. The balance of £18 os. 4d. is what has generally been supposed to have come from the rates, as no other arrangement

except'd." Who can tell why? Peter Rathbone and Ralph Percival made a further note, namely:—

"These accounts, with the exception



is mentioned or is probable under the circumstances.

A foot-note in the accounts of this period is invariably made - "errors

of the Balance of the Cross, have been allowed, and the deficiencies of the Subscriptions are allowed."

The Signatures of the authorities of

the town for the year are:-

W. EATON, JOHN EARDLEY, JOHN TWEMLOW, JOHN STRINGER, JOHN MELLOR, and R. BATTY.

Their descendants still live in our neighbourhood.

In these days the wage question has received much attention, and the following items will therefore naturally be of interest.

1816.

Pd.—Randle Bradbury, Five Days.....10s. 6d. Pd.—John Ridgway, Five Days' Labour 10s. 0d.

That is at the rate of about 2s. per dieum; and, so far as can be ascertained, was for skilled labour in stone-masonry and similar callings.

It is apparent that great violence was used when the Crosses were demolished, being thought too pagan-like for Christians to behold (1649 or thereabouts); for, from one side of the large stone socket, a large part was torn away. Many smaller component parts too were carried away and applied to various uses (and abuses). This fact entailed much of the trouble of re-collection.

The entries following show the charges made by those who relinquished one or more parts of the Crosses in their possession when Restoration was decided upon. Singularly enough, the first two are dated October 1816, while the general account is for the year 1815.

	1816.	s.	d.
Oct.	Pd.—Thos. Shawe for stone	I	0
91	Pd.—Widow Heathcote ditto		
lan. 13th,	Pd.—Greenway's Lad for carrying		
, ,	stone	0	3
June,	Pd.—Sam. Wharton for stone	8	o
	PdGeo. Moore ditto	13	0
July	Pd.—Geo. Henshall for stone and		
	cartage	34	6

		1815.—continued.	S.	d.
Aug.		Pd.—Sam. Wharton for stone	20	0
Sep.		Ditto ditto	14	0
Nov.		Pd.—John Rathbone for stone	4	0
,,	10th,	Pd.—Rd. Hartless for stone	3	6
,,	16th,	PdJoseph Hollinshead for stone	-	
		had by Mr Fardley	2	^

These items in all probability also include charges for new stone for such pieces of the Crosses as were not to be found, and for a quantity of stone which must have necessarily been used in securing a proper basement for the superstructure. When it is understood that the largest item—the one paid to Geo. Henshall, f, 1 14s. 6d.—includes some portion (perhaps indeed, the greater portion, as there is no other entry in the accounts) of the cartage, it is remarkable that the grand total only amounts to the small sum of five guineas and threepence. Deducting this amount from the nett cost of re-erection, £32 is left for the payment of Architect, Builder, Workmen, and Labourers. How far would £32 go in work of this kind to-day?

When our old Town Hall was taken down in 1891, the late Mr. Wm. Eachus and others suggested the removal of the Crosses to the centre of the old Market Square; but it was estimated that the cost would probably be (at the minimum) £200:—this, for a change of site of only about 100 yards. So much for modern advancement!

But to return to the accounts. It has been shown that distinct charges were made for undoubted component parts of the monument given up, and it will be seen therefore that the structure is separable into sections. It seems probable that the re-claimed portions numbered ten, costing respectively 1/-, 1/-, 3/6, 4/-, 4/-, 8/-, 13/-, 14/-, 20/-, and 34/6, (but in the last item some cartage is included); and when the excellent carvings seen on the sides of each obelisk are taken into consideration (workmanship 1200 years.

old, and still admirably clear), there can be no surprise that at the time of demolition all who could do so secured pieces of stone for their ornamental grottoes and for fronts of buildings. It has been averred that some portions of the original Crosses lie buried beneath the basement of the present Liberal Club. Is this so, and did the fierceness of the demolisher leave not even the foundation stones one upon another? The present structure has, however, stood the exposure of years so well that it reflects the greatest credit upon the Restoration; and no important part or parts (it any at all) have been discovered since 1816. This is satisfactory in the extreme.

Studying this (for us Sandbachians) notable year, brings thoughts as to the surroundings of the Market Square in those days. It is well known that the present Liberal Club was the principal Drapery establishment of the town. High Street contained chiefly thatched cottages, and Hawk Street (mirabile dictu) the better part of the business establishments. Doubtless many other interesting facts remain still to be evolved.

It has been said of the Restoration, that towards the latter end of the 17th Century, the central part of the larger obelisk and several fragments of the smaller, were taken by Sir John Crewe to Utkinton, and set up as ornaments in his grounds. The figure of Christ on the Cross he seems to have regarded as a relic of Popery, and so had it carefully and completely plastered over. On the Knight's death, the fragments were removed to Tarporley, where Mr. Cole (a distinguished antiquary), saw and took drawings of them, which are now with his other MSS. in the British Museum.

Sir J. Egerton willingly gave up the stones he had at Oulton Park, and the others were sought for and found in various places. Only one stone—the lower part of the smaller obelisk—was found on the spot. Another was in the side of the town well (old Bridge Street), a third in the pavement of the principal street; a fourth was dug out of a garden near the Market Place; while a fifth was found doing duty as the door-step to a cottage. The Restoration was successfully accomplished by September, 1816, much to the joy of the inhabitants, as will be seen from the following:—

"The enthusiasm which the re-erection excited among the lower orders was excessive, and a concourse of people poured in from the surrounding townships. On some days the crowd was sufficiently great in the Market Place to obstruct the operations of the workmen."

The reader will notice the italics in the above account. It is singular that the definite whereabouts of no other portions are given. With regard to this one piece, however, there is no doubt that it is the most perfect stone in the fabric; and it is well preserved. Probably its weight and size have something to do with its good condition, and it is worthy of minute examination,

The following omission (from the accounts) is pertinent at this point:—

Nov. Pd.—John Richardson for a stone step at his door in room of part of the Cross...... 1

Who was John Richardson, where did he live, and what part of the Crosses did he give up? It is not possible to trace the stone in the relic as we have it now; but antiquaries generally, and Sandbachians in particular, will, I presume, feel grateful that John did render up his door-step for the nominal sum of one shilling. The clearing of the Square after the re-building of the Crosses must have involved considerable labour, but there is only one entry made in regard to it; and as there seems to have been every attention paid to the enumeration of items of expenditure on the part of the joint surveyors (though their methods are strange enough with the occasion), it is natural to conclude that this entry expresses the only charge for clearance of refuse.

The entry is:-

Nov. Pd.—To Mr. Hassall, for all, for men carrying stone out of the Square....... 1 4

Surely there must have been many voluntary workers!

There are no further charges (in the matter of Restoration) traceable in the accounts in question. Enough exist, nevertheless, to open out fields for much interesting enquiry.

### "Ebbs Fleet."

Duplicate of the SMALLER OBELISK.

N 1884, the Right Hon. Earl Granville visited the Ancient Crosses at Sandbach with several persons of eminence, among whom were Dr. Freeman, and Mr. Roddis, a well-known Birmingham sculptor.

After some consultation, and the lapse of a few months, an exact copy of the smaller obelisk was erected at Ebbs Fleet, at the expense of the noble Earl, who was extremely anxious to mark the spot where St. Augustine landed in England some 1300 years ago.

Miss Lucy H. Freeman has written a very interesting pamphlet on the "Augustine Memorial in the Isle of Thanet," where this interesting copy of the Sandbach smaller Cross is erected near Pegwell Bay.

My description of our smaller obelisk on page 7 of this edition will equally apply.

#### THE PAVING

# of the Old Market Square.

FROM a careful perusal of the same accounts, it seems that the paving of the Old Market Square was accomplished immediately after the Restoration of the monument, or very nearly so. Notwithstanding the fact that any one with abnormal feet or limbs cannot appreciate the old style of street-paving, there is yet no modern mode that will resist hard wear and weather as pebbles have done. Even to-day the Square is almost in as satisfactory a condition as when first laid, and needs slight repair only at long intervals.

It is to the curious that we leave the question of whether the roads were in earlier days made of waste cinders, and such like, and not properly covered with material that becomes solid and is durable; but there is no doubt that a great deal of paving with pebbles was done in the town in 1816.

In Sandbach, Hawk Street, Back Street, and the Square, were certainly pebble-paved. These pebbles had, of course, to be collected, and the greater portion of the pebbles were apparently gathered from the Heath and its neighbourhood.

	re are some items from the	e
	1815. s.	d.
April.	Pd.—John Lea, Bellman o	6
May.	Pd.—II women and children for gathering stones at Sandbach Heath, 3 days (i.e. 33 days in all)	6
June	Saml. Burgess, 51 days in Square 7	6
,,	W. Lea, 3 days at Malt Kiln and the Square, paving 5	0
,,	Wm. Barnes, 181 days in Square 29	6
2)	Jos. Palin, 2 days in Square 3	0
"	Richard Vernon, 3\frac{3}{4} days in Square 5	6
"	Thos. Jackson, 3 days in Square 4	6
23	Saml. Peover, 2 ,, ,, 3	0
,,,	John Key, 5 ,, ,, 7	6
,,	John Mason, 2 ,, ,, 3	0
,,	Pd.—11 women and children for gathering stones at Sandbach Heath	8
Sept.	Thos. Salmon, 11 days in Square 3	0
Nov.	John Lea, for a Pole o	6
Dec.	Robt. Macclesfield, for stone £5 19	2 1
1)	Mr. Moseley for stones, and Batemen of Mr. Eardley's account£3 3	10

There are entries for stones in other years, but they are exceedingly few and far between: 1840 yields two, for small amounts.

Here is an interesting entry of another kind however for that year:—

Truly a remarkable charge for repairing a bridge! Where was "The Oak" situated? Was it a "Public Inn?"

Yet aga	ın:-							
odf (of t		1814					S.	d.
June 15th, Po	l.—For	liquor	for	pay	viors		. 0	IO
Oct. 22nd,	yen a l	,,		,,		,,	3	6
	d.—Chas	s. Broaghways	dy,	for	liquor	to	.14	2

About six entries lower down we find this too:—

Pd.—For liquor for Team men and labourers, as by bill from Saml. Arrowsmith, £7 6 6

and these items evidently raised the question of "Liquor, or no Liquor?" among the town authorities, viz.: John Hilditch, John Bull, W. Eaton, and R. Percival; for the following resolution is written at the foot of the last page of the accounts for the year:—

"That no allowance of ale be given to the paviors and other men that are paid for their labours (except on particular occasions)."

According to the second of the items first instanced, eleven women and children received 16/6 for three days' work; that is, 6d. per day.

From the next three items, it appears that Saml. Burgess worked five and a half days for 7/6; W. Lea worked three days (partly at the Malt Kiln and partly in the Square), for 5/-; and Wm. Barnes received 29/6 for eighteen and a half days' paving in the Square. The first man, therefore, was paid scarcely 1/6 per day, while the other two were paid more. The general rate seems, however, to have been 1/6 for paviors at this period.

Although many other curious items are to be found in these old accounts, perhaps I have quoted as many as will convey a fairly adequate idea of the rate of wages during (and subsequent to) the Restoration; but two others, of a very different kind, may afford a new interest.

1814.

Oct. Pd.—Mr. Colclough, a Bill occasioned by Mr. John Whitehead having indicted the road over Ettiley Heath.....£4 18 9

1816.

Nov. Casn Pd.—John Ford, Esquire, for making a road at End Heath £10 0 0

What is meant exactly by a road being "indicted?" Also, how did Mr. Colclough come to possess the right to claim? Are

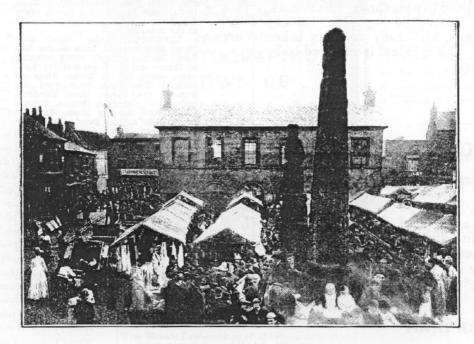
the two names given in the respective items for the same road; or does one item refer to the Ettiley Heath lane of to-day, and the other to an extension of Giddy Lane, or not? I think both to one—the lane to Ettiley Heath Station.

In closing my review of the year 1816 under the impression that many of the statements here chronicled have not before-time been made public, let me hope that what I have said may serve to better complete our links with the past, and to re-invigorate that healthy interest in our quaint old town, which it is so very desirable we should all foster.



# ORIGIN OF THE MARKET.

50 far back as 1578, Sandbach was noted for the excellent quality of its malt liquor and worsted yarns, being so centrally situated. After considerable trouble, he obtained the necessary grant, and ever since then we



THE OLD MARKET, 1888

and the latter were made in large quantities. Sir John Ratliff, of Ordsall, Lancashire, conceived at this time that the town was a suitable place for a market, have boasted a market every Thursday.

In addition. Sir John established two fairs, to be held (1) on the Tuesday and

Wednesday in Easter week, and (2) on the Thursday and Friday before the "Nativity of Our Lady." Formerly, these fairs were largely attended, but of late years they have been but poorly patronized. Indeed, a re-arrangement has been made, by which each fair lasts but one day; but a slight advantage has been gained by the addition of a third fair. The usual dates are:—Easter Tuesday, the first Thursday after the 12th of September, and the 28th December.

A curious incident is reported of the September fair, 1651. It appears that a party of about 1000 King's Horse had been to the battle of Worcester, where they met with a defeat. On their retreat they attempted to pass through Sandbach, but were attacked by the plucky Sandbachians, and many of them taken prisoners. The incident is referred to by Whitelocke.

# STAGE=COACH DAYS in Sandbach.

PROM a copy of Pigot's Directory published in 1822, and now in my possession, the following is an exact copy in every detail, of the Coaching arrangements for this district:—

#### COACHES.

To LONDON, the Royal Sovereign, (from Liverpool), calls at the George Inn, Bridge Street, every afternoon at four; goes through Newcastle and the Potteries—the Eapress (from Liverpool), calls at the Red Lion, Holmes chapel, every evening at half-past eight; the same route—the Aurora (from Liverpool), calls at the George and Dragon, Holmes chapel, every evening at nine; goes thro' Brereton green, Newcastle, Stone, Lichfield, Coventry, Fenchurch, Daventry, Towcester, Brickhill, Dunstable and St. Alban's—and the Unpire (from Liverpool), calls at the Bear's Head, Brereton green, every evening at seven; goes the same route as the Aurora.

To BIRMINGHAM, the Royal Mail

goes the same route as the Aurora,
To BIRMINGHAM, the Royal Mail
(from Liverpool), calls at the Red
Lion, Holmes chapel, at twelve every
night; goes through Brereton green,
Newcastle, Stone, Stafford & Wolverhampton—the Bang-up (from Liverpool), calls at the Bear's Head, Brereton green, every day at one; and goes
the same route by Wolverhampton—
the Rocket (from Liverpool), calls at
the George Inn, Bridge street, every
day at eleven; and goes the same route

day at eleven; and goes the same route as the Bang-up.

To LIVERPOOL, the Royal Mail (from Birmingham), calls at the Red Lion, Holmes chapel, every morning at three—and the Express (from Londen), every day at three; they go through Knutsford, Warrington and Prescot the Aurora (from London), calls at the George & Dragon, Holmes chapel—the Bang-up (from Birmingham), calls at the Bear's Head, Brereton green, every day at two-the Rocket (from Brimingham, calls at the George Inn, Bridge street, at six every morning—and the Rayal Sovercijn (from London), every morning at eight; and both go through Middlewich, Nantwich, Warrington, &c.... The Umpire (from London), calls at the Bear's Head, Brereton green, every morning at half-past eleven; & goes thro' Knutsford, Warrington, &c. To MANCHESTER, the Nettle (from Nantwich), calls at the Wheat Sheaf, ton of the Town every forenced at the content of the Town ev

Nantwich), calls at the wheat Shear, top of the Town, every forenoon at eleven; goes through Middlewich, Northwich and Altrincham.

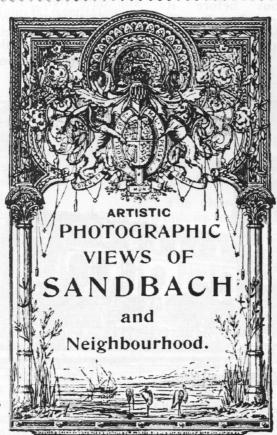
To NANTWICH, the Nettle (from Manchester), calls at the Wheat Sheaf, top of the Town, every afternoon at five; goes through Wheelock.

# → W. J. HARPER'S 🔆

LIST OF

# LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS.

- 1. Crosses, E. & S.
- 2. Crosses, N. & W.
- 3. Crosses, Old View.
- 4. The Old Market, with Old Town Hall.
- 5. The Old Market.
- 6. Crosses with Black Bear.
- 7. Old Market and Crown Ion.
- s. St. Mary's Church | the old View |.
- 9. Interior of Church.
- 10. The "Old Hall."
- 11. Brereton Church, East.
- 12. Brereton Church, South
- 13. St. John's Church, East.
- 14. Heath Church, South.
- 15. Moreton Hall, with Moat.
- Moreton Hall, Moat to right.
- 17. Main Entrance, Moreton Hall.
- 18. Moreton Hall, Court Yard.
- 19. Brereton Hall.
- 20. Elworth Church, N.W.
- 21. Elworth Church, N.E.
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- 23. Mow Cop, shewing Castle.
- 24. Mow Cop, Staff, side.
- 25. Mow Cop, "Old Man Rock."
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- 27. Black Bear Inn, &c.
- 28. Warmingham Church, S.
- 29. Warmingham Church, N.
- 30. The Institute
- 31. Grammar School.
- 32. Brereton Hall, and Church.
- 33. Holmes Chapel, Church, &c.



- 4. Sandbach Church, S.
- 35. The Steps and Church.
- 36. New Market [side View].
- 7. New Market [Front].
- 38. Fountain, Institute, &c.
- 39. Lawton Church
- 40, Market [two Views].
- 41. San. Mart.
- 42. Alsager Church, E.
- 3. Wesleyan Chapel.
- H. Brereton Hall Lodge.
- 45. Alsager Church, W.
- 16. Crown Bank.
- 47. Middlewich Road.
- 18. Alsager Church, S.
- 49. Brereton Rectory.
- 50. Group of Seven Views.
- 1. Group of Thirteen Views.

Other Views in Preparation.

IN ORDERING BY POST PLEASE QUOTE

CHART OF

#### CARVINGS, MEASUREMENTS, &c.

OF THE "ANCIENT CROSSES," SANDBACH.

With Minute Explanations of all belonging to these interesting relics. READY SHORTLY.

No.

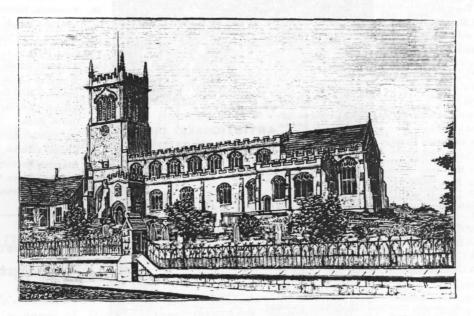
HARPER'S LOCAL VIEWS!

W. J. HARPER, High Street, Sandbach.

### Our Parish Church.

ST. MARY'S stands on an eminence near the river Wheelock, to the East of the Market Square, and is a most handsome as well as a most venerable fabric; but before its restoration in the years 1847—8—9, it was not noticeable for any particular merit of architectural design or richness of detail.

was replaced by a new one on a stone pedestal placed on the north side of the Chancel arch. The irregular oak pews, too, were replaced by open benches; but the old font may still be seen in a garden in Bradwall Road. This old font bears the date 1667; is octagonal in shape; and is ornamented with acanthus leaves. It also bears a Greek inscription,—like the modern one,—which reads the same both ways. The present font has, how-



ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

During the re-building, a few remains of an earlier church still were met with, and these fragments, I believe, are preserved in the vestry to-day. Sir Gilbert Scott was the architect, and, with the exceptions that thirty-six feet were added to the chancel, and the north and south aisles extended, he built the church as far as possible like the old one. The time-stained oak ceilings of 1661 were restored; but the high pulpit, which originally blocked up the middle aisle,

ever, the additional words:—Pro Deo et Ecclesia Robertus Eaton Batty, M.A., D.D., MDCCCLIX.

At a cost of nearly £,2000, raised by a local rate, the great tower was taken down and re-built. Like the old one, our modern tower, with its noble arches, spans the wide pavement from the north to the south gates, and is supported at each angle by massive buttresses. It is about ninety feet high, and is surmounted

with a battlement and four handsome pinnacles.

The total cost of church restoration was £7000.

The advowson has passed through many hands. At the present time it is the property of the Revd. John R. Armitstead, the vicar, and the gross value of the living is about £1200 per annum.

The vicarial tithes were commuted about the year 1839.

In 1817 our church was described as follows:— "A handsome tower, nave, chancel, and side aisles, which terminate in two smaller chancels belonging to the manor of Wheelock, and the hall at Bradwall: the whole is built of red sandstone, and handsomely finished in the obtusely-pointed style."

Not much is known of the chantries and altars that existed in the old church. A "return" made just prior to the dissolution of the monasteries in 1537, states that four priests were serving in the parish of "Sonbage." Another, made in 1549, giving an account of the church goods of Cheshire, states that "Sondebache" then possessed "one chales (chalice) and a ring of iiii bells." As the wardens' accounts for that period are not known to be in existence, particulars of the cost etc. of these bells are unobtainable. They remained in the church, however, so far as can be traced, until 1719, when they were replaced by four of the bells at present in use, which bear the numbers two, three, four, five, in the excellent peal of eight which our church now boasts. The inscriptions on Nos. four and five are:-

(4).—God save the Church and King. A.R. 1719. (5).—Abraham Rudhall cast us all. 1719.

It should be noted that the initials A.R. in the inscription on the fourth bell stand for Abraham Rudhall; and that the word "all" in the inscription on the fifth,

signifies the four bells above-mentioned cast in the year 1719.

The Communion plate belonging to the church bears some interesting writings. The alms-dish is without any; but on the smaller plate the following occurs:—

"The guift | of the Revd. Mr. | B. Baldwin, vicar, | to the parish of | Sandbach | 1737."

On two others used for the sacred wafers, and upon the two smaller cups for the wine:—

"The guift of Lawrence Steele, Sonne of Richard Steele, of Sandbach, in Cheshire, to the use of the sayd Parish of Sandbach for euer, 1656."

There are also long inscriptions on the larger chalices.

The church is rich in stained glass windows inserted in memory of:—

- (1).—Revd. Lewis Evans, M.A., March 28th, 1869, nineteen years Head Master of Sandbach Grammar School.
- (2).—George Twemlow, (the Hill), January 20th, 1808.
- (3).—Thos. Broome, October 21st, 1827; and [Mary Broome, his wife, March 19th, 1825.

Francis Rickards and Elizabeth Broome, their last surviving children, erected this window, 1860.

- (4).—Charles Rickards, March 6th, 1831.

  The gift of C. H. Rickards, Esq., of Manchester, on behalf of the children, and representing incidents in the life of David.
- (5).—William Latham, (Solicitor), June 19th, 1861.

In the North Chapel on the North side.

(6).—Richard and Sarah Latham.

(Thomas Needham Wilson, January 10th, 1837.

(John Wilson, February 24th, 1842.

In the North Chapel, on the East side.

(7).—John Latham, January 30th, 1853.

On the North side of the Chancel—three lights; a similar one opposite with the same inscription, on the South side; a five-light (the East) window, without inscription, but bearing the arms of Latham (Bradwall), Mere, Arderne and Done.

All the gift of John Latham (son), of Bradwall Hall.

- (8).— Three windows in the South Chapel.

  John Henry Latham, July 4th, 1843, aged 20 years; the gift of the above (father), also
- (9).—Eliza Percival, August 14th, 1848. East end of South aisle.
- (10).—Ralph Percival, August 29th, 1853. Next window Westwards.
- (11).—William Rathbone, May 1st, 1857.
  Harriet Rathbone, July 12th, 1853.
  Joseph Rathbone, January 30th, 1810.
  Citizen Howarth Cowdroy, December 25th, 1828.—(A son-in-law).
- (12).—Elizabeth Holbrook, May 7th, 1873.

With regard to the memorial window numbered twelve, it will interest readers to know that it was a member of the same *Holbrook* family who so generously provided the church with a handsome illuminated clock recently, and who takes such a genuine interest in Sandbach town.

There are three handsomely carved wooden screens in the church, one at the entrance to the chancel, and one each on the north and south sides respectively.

In 1787, the Revd. R. L. Salmon, M.A., was the vicar of the parish. He was instituted on the cession of Peter Haddon, and (like our present vicar) on his own petition; and was the son of Edward Salmon, Esquire, of Nantwich. He died in 1828, at the age of seventy-three, after having been vicar for forty-one years. His mural tablet on the North wall of the church was erected by his children in 1842.

On February 20th, 1828, the Revd. John Armitstead, who was the son of the Revd. John Armitstead of Cranage Hall, and a graduate of Oxford, was made vicar. He held the position for nearly forty years, and did a large amount of good in his extensive parish, taking a leading part in the management of the Sandbach Charity estate, and in the erection and endowment of the alms-houses. He was also author of the celebrated pamphlet, "Sabbath-Day Cheese-making not a work of Necessity," which revolutionised agricultural customs in the district. Dying in 1865, lamented on all hands, he was succeeded by his eldest-born, the Revd. John Richard Armitstead, our present worthy vicar. Mr. Armitstead was educated at Oxford, like his father, matriculating on the 28th of June, 1848, aged nineteen. He took his B.A. degree in 1852, and his M.A. in 1855. From 1850 to 1862, he held the Incumbency of Goostry; and the Rectory of Wendlebury, Oxfordshire, from 1862 to 1865. He takes a most active part in connection with the various public bodies of our quaint old town, and is warmly respected by everyone who knows him.

#### The Old Hall.

(SEE ILLUSTRATION).

HIS is a very fine Elizabethan building, standing opposite to the south wall of the Parish Church. It is well above the road, of very picturesque appearance, and generally attractive to strangers. Very little seems to be known of its past history, however, though it is believed to have been the residence of the lords of the manor, and later (perhaps) the parsonage. On one side of the building there is the following inscription: -"T.B., 1656," but this is more probably the date of a renovation than that of erection. Probably on this site stood anciently the castellated manor house of the "De Sonbach" family. Ormerod mentions the "Hall" in his history, and I give his statement because it is especially interesting:-

Inq. p.m. 13 Hen. VI.

"Margaret, who was the wife of John de Radclyf, of Ordesdal, Knight, held inter alia (among other things), the manor of Sondebache, of Thos. de Stanley, as aforesaid and which Inq. (enquiry) finds that there were on the same manor one Hall, two chambers, one chapel, one stable,

and one kitchen (of no value); 48 messuages, 500 acres of land, and 40 of meadow (of the yearly value of 39 marks), 40 of wood, 100 of moss (yearly value 20s, 3d.), 3 ponds (yearly value 3s), one water mill (yearly value 4 marks), and 13s. 10d. rent. Total value p.a. of the whole manor, £30 10s. 2d. Died on the Sat. next before the Feast of S. Bartholomew last; John, son of John de Radclyf, son and heir, aged 50 years, who in his livery, Sept. 2, same year (1627) is stated to be then a Knight."

There are, unfortunately, no direct descendants of this family bearing the old name now, so far as is known, though in all probability the family continued for some decades after the Legh and Radclyf intermarriages.

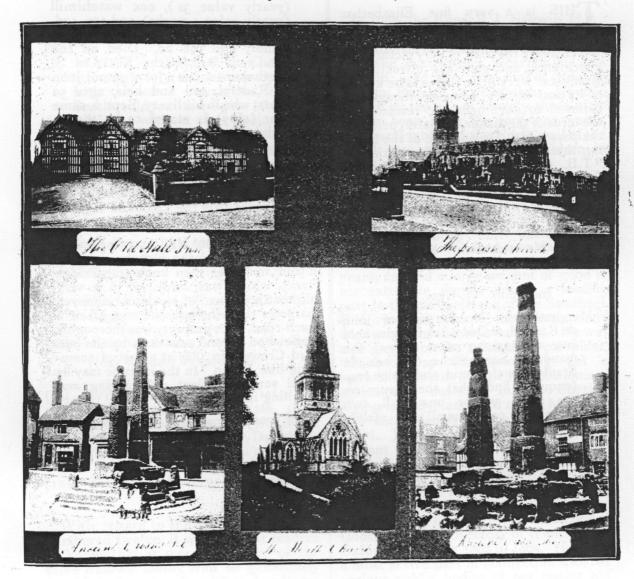
In 1845, this "Old Hall" was made into a public hotel, and the highway running in front of it was then known as Bridge Street, which was, however, in a very different state, and of much more uneven character than the present one, albeit a coach-road. The property was thoroughly repaired on several occasions by the late Lord Crewe,—in 1887 at a cost of something like £1000. In the interior may be found some excellent old carving and panelling in oak.

The present host is Mr. John Bebington.

### St. John's Church.

FORMS the centre subject of one of our groups of local Views, and is the most picturesque building of modern construction in the locality. It

was built and endowed in 1861, by Sarah Sibson, in memory of her respected father, the Revd. John Sibson, (thirty-six years curate of the parish church, at Sandbach).



The Organ was the gift of Ann Woolley, and was placed in the church by that lady in memory of her husband, John Woolley, in 1864.

The Clock in the tower was given in memory of Charles Hilditch Rickards, of Brick House, in 1887.

There are some beautiful Oak Carvings on each wall of the chancel, and in the chapel, all the work of the present and much esteemed Mrs. Kennedy (formerly Mrs. Twemlow). They will amply repay inspection.

The inscriptions on the stone walls of the church are works of art, chiefly by the late Augustus Marshall.

It is remarkable that although this church is of recent date, it is becoming rich in stained windows. We cannot give descriptions of them here, but will simply note that the east window (over the altar) was inserted by the late Peter Hollinshead, in memory of Joyce Jane, his wife.

Another window will be found in the South transept, to the memory of the Revd. John Armitstead and his wife, Susan Hester. There are also two South windows in the chancel.

The window in the North transept is in memory of the late much lamented "Ann Kennedy," of Brookside, and the inscription runs as follows:—

"By her neighbours,—rich and poor, and her good deeds and charitable work, will long be remembered."

In the sacred acre of this church lie the remains of several locally prominent men and women of the past, viz.:—

Revd. John Armitstead, and his Wife.

Geo. W. Latham, of Bradwall Hall, and first M.P. of the Crewe division.

Major Woodgate, and his Wife.

As stated:—Ann Kennedy, of Brookside; and others.

There is a school connected with the church. On a brass tablet we find the following:—

"This school was built in grateful and affectionate remembrance of the Rev. John Armitstead, M.A., 34 years Vicar of Sandbach, by his parishoners and friends, 1866, as an Infants' School."

The wisdom of providing this School is shown in the fact that soon after erection a second room was added, and in 1891 both rooms were enlarged; and various additions and enlargements have since followed. The esteemed master in charge of the Day School is Mr. A. F. Carter.

The Revd. Sydney H. Armitstead is Incumbent of the Parish, and is much respected by his parishoners.

### Scotch Common, Sandbach.

N the early part of the year 1650, Charles Stuart, afterwards Charles II., son of Charles I., having the promise of help from the Presbyterians, left France for Scotland, in the hope of ousting Cromwell and gaining the crown. His army was utterly routed by the English in the battle of Dunbar, September 3rd, of the same year. Charles, however, raised another army by the help of the English Royalists, and entrenched himself at Stirling. In 1651, Cromwell, unable to force this position, crossed the Fife, thus leaving the road to England quite open. The bait was

eagerly taken. Charles hurried southwards, and with comparative ease reached Worcester-on-the-Severn. The Protector was, however, close behind; and on September 3rd, 1651, exactly a year after the battle of Dunbar, attacked the city great impetuosity, completely defeating the Royalists with a loss of 6000 men, and their general, Leslie. "For four or five hours," Cromwell told the Parliament, "it was as stiff a contest as ever I have seen." Those who escaped, principally cavalry, pursued by the Parliamentrians, hurried northwards to reach their own country. A party of these fugitives—Whitelocke says 1000 entered Sandbach on the September fair day, 1651, and were there fiercely attacked, both by their pursuers and the country people assembled in the town, who had no sympathy with them. After a sharp skirmish, the dispirited, travelweary Scotch were compelled to surrender with the loss of several killed and wounded.

It was from this event that the name "Scotch Common" was derived. The "Common" or "Commons" is a triangular tract of sandy land, lying between the New Town Hall and the Water Tower on Congleton Road.

After the encounter, the prisoners were placed in the church, and kept there for several days, as the following quotation taken from the Autobiography of Mr. Newcome, a Cheshire minister, will show:—

"The battle having been at Worcester, September 3rd, 1651, by exchange I preached at Sandbach. The poor Scots were miserably used in the country, and so many of them put in the church at Sandbach that we could not preach in it; but I preached in the churchyard both ends of the day to a great congregation.

Tradition gives two accounts of the burial of the dead. The "Scotch Meadow"-a low-lying pasture near the Fields Farm, between Sandbach and Malkin's Bank, figures in the one, and a large hollow on the left of the high road from Sandbach (at Brindley Green), in the other. This latter place has long borne the name of "Piper's Hollow," because, it is said, a wounded piper, who had been taken there as dead, recovering consciousness, played on his bagpipes a requiem for his dead comrades. As tending to support this legend, it may be mentioned that on the ground being levelled some years ago, several bones were found, which had every appearance of having once belonged to a human frame.

## Lodley Unfinished Church.

N these days of railways, telegraphy, and electricity, it is very difficult to pause and reflect on what the past has been. Many a wild area has been rendered productive on the one hand, and many a beautiful dale re-echoes the shriek of our railway engines and the rumblings of carriages on the other. The lightning speed of the age has not, however, destroyed all the beauty of our Cheshire Vale Royal. At Hassall and in its vicinity there are still landscapes which afford an artist (and the thoughtful passer-by), a source of delight. True, a railway passes right through the hilly scene; but, nevertheless, much old-time beauty and a little wildness remain. Even at the "crossings" a certain enchantment may be found; for, below them, nestles the old mill, which, together with the porter's house just above, makes as pretty a picture as need be desired. So that, although Hassall, Top Heath, Lodley, and Hassall Moss may be behind the age in point of factory, mill, or other works, they are rich in rural excellence.

Many years ago, "a fine old English gentleman," Mr. Lowndes by name, resided at Hassall Hall, now the residence of Mr. Yates. Of strong religious feelings, he viewed an extensive neighbourhood, void of any provision for the spiritual wants of the people, with misgiving. His loving heart was moved, and after due consideration he determined to build a church out of his own private purse. Operations commenced in good earnest about the middle of the year 1836, the site selected being a summit immediately above. Lodley smithy—a very central position for the farms and cottages at

that time. A structure of modern style was designed to seat between 400 and 450 people. About ten crypts were built, which cost a considerable sum in bricks alone.

At our beloved Queen's coronation in 1837, the building (so far as it had progressed) was, as a resident quaintly expressed it, "literally buried with flags," amid great rejoicings. The day after, I am informed, Mr. Lowndes was seized with a latal illness, and weather rose up in his place who "knew not Joseph," neither the requirements of the people at Lodley. Thus the good intentions of the benevolent deceased gentleman were unfulfilled; and, although the walls and roof were already complete, and the scantlings for the floor partly put in, the church remained, and still remains unfinished. With its hundreds of names cut into the masonry and wood-work, it is a singular sight.

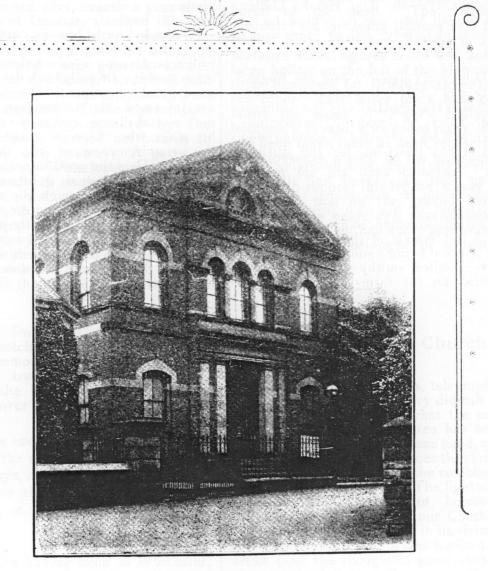


### Wesleyan Chapel.

THE Wesleyan Society in Sandbach has been in existence for more than

building. It was built in 1872.

In 1785 there were twenty members of Society. In 1792 a Sunday Service was established, and was held at one



WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

150 years. From the illustration given it will be seen the present chapel in Middlewich Road is a handsome

o'clock at noon, at the house of Mr. Thos. Mann, who lived in the house now occupied by Mr. Wm. Dean, near the

Brook Bridge. In 1807 the membership had increased to 100.

For some time the services were conducted in a room in the Common Factory.

The more prominent names connected with this church during the last few years, have been or are:—

Edward Eardley,
Francis Boston,
John Summerfield,
(Known as the "Bishop of Betchton)."

Jas. Curless,
Telfer,

S. Carter,
F. Thornhill,
R. Allen,
A. Wood,
T. Evans,
and others.

The circuit includes, and there are chapels at Sandbach, Lawton, Hassall Green, Smallwood, Rookery, Sandbach Heath, and Bradwall. It was made a separate circuit district in 1856. Since that time the following is a list of Ministers:—

1856-7-8		R	evd	. W. Parkinson.
1859-60	•••		,,	J. Bolam.
1861-2-3			"	G Patterson.
1864-5		•••	22	J. Gregory.
1866			,,	T. Jones.
1867-8-9			,,	F. Toyne.
1870-1-2			"	J. Cooke.
1873-4-5			"	A. Lockyer.
			,,	J. B. West.
1879-80-1			,,	J. Ritchie.
1882-3-4			,,	J. Kent.
1885-6-7	•••		"	A. Baxter.
1888			,,	J. Sutton.
1889-90-9	I		"	W. Cumberland.
1892-3-4			11	E. Parry.

## Sandbach Fifty Years Agone.

OLD Sandbachians say:—"The publichouses, generally, have been well preserved; but, fifty years ago, the "George" Hotel was the house of the town, and was kept by a man named Emery. Stage-Coaches called there, en route from Liverpool to London, and (with the occasion), convicts bound hand and foot might be seen on their way for a term of years in Van Diemen's Land.

Frank and Betty Birtles, toffee vendors, were interesting characters at this time; and the peculiar toffee they made was known by the names "Long Frank and Short Betty."

The sites of the Coffee Tavern and the buildings onwards to Mr. Clews' Saddlery shop were garden ground, with a currier's shop belonging to Emmanuel Booth, and a small house occupied by Peggy and Dicky Fisher near the middle. Of these last two individuals many curious tales are told. They kept a mangle, and tradition reports that they were patronized by all the "gentry" round; and that their house and the adjoining garden were consequently a centre of much interest to men and maid servants. "Peggy" is also said to have kept an embryo registry office. Her husband was a coal-carrier.

Near to the Institution was the butcher's shop of Mr. Ralph Arden, then a sprightly young man. Madame Wells, a lady of great benevolence, also lived close by.

About the site of Mr. Allman's shop, High Town, was a confectionery establishment; and next door, on the Middlewich Road, lived an eccentric inhabitant of the name of John Birchell, or, as he was more familiarly called, "Old Crab." This gentleman had a predilection for sunflowers; and though the circumstance was not much noted at the time, it is a fact that his garden, immediately before the front door, was generally well filled with them.

The "Old Hall" was in the hands of Mr. Thos. Bostock, a silk throwster,—

the same gentleman who built the Hill Factory (now converted into dwellinghouses).

Half-way up the Hill was situated what was called the "poor-house." A more elegant establishment at Arclid has since been erected. Near the Hill Factory lived Charles Dunning, the possessor of a bear, who gained a livelihood by visiting the various 'wakes' (feasts) in Staffordshire and Cheshire, and giving the usual performances. He is said to have been a pugilist of singularly excellent development. Over his house-door was the carved image of a bear, the natural inference being that he didn't shun advertising of his profession."

### Brook Bridge.

Mr. W. H. Dickinson, of Sandbach, by whose kind permission the interesting particulars are published.

In an old volume published in 1777, bound in a strong leather binding peculiar to that period, and whose time-stained pages contain many curious entries, written on leaves and in blank pages of the book. The following regarding Brook Bridge will be of interest:—

(1).—1825, May the 30th.—"The First Stone For Sandbach New Bridge, Bought By Charles Whittingham and Laid by Wm. Smith the Builder June 22nd. The Last Stone of the Arch, Laid by Wm. Smith and Wm. Dickinson in the Presence of Mr. Wm. Cross Senr. November 3rd at Ten O'clock in the Fore Noon."

(2).—Dec. 13th.—"The Cinter (centre)
Stone of the Battlement Laid by
Francis Johnson Ford, in the absense
of His Father John Ford Esq., one of
the Magistrates of the Hundred of
Northwich in the County of Cheshire
and deposited under, a Copper Plate,
one Half Crown, one Shilling, one
sixpence, and one silver Sheffield
Jobu value sixpence, one Copper
penny, and one Half-Penny."

Wm, Dickinson, Senr.

The handwriting is remarkably neat, but the use of capital letters it will be seen is not exactly in accordance with modern usage.

## George IV.

ACURIOUS entry from the old volume named is found in the same handwriting, it has no connection with Brook Bridge, but may be of interest:—

"George the Fourth Intered at Windsor July 15th 1830, about Twelve O'clock at Night a Sermon Preached in Sandbach Church on the Occasion by the Reverend Mr. Ingham, Curate. His Text the Fourth Chapter of Amos and the Latter part of the Twelvth Verse, "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel!" First Lesson the Fourteen Chapter of Job. The Second Lesson the Fifth Chapter of the First Book of Thessalonians."

# NEIGHBOURING OLD HALLS.

# Old Moreton Hall

 $oldsymbol{A}$  S it is familiarly termed, is about seven miles, by road, from Sandbach, and the picturesque pile of buildings with their rural surroundings make a pleasant summer rendezvous. "Bluff King Hal" undertook the erection of the Hall, and it was completed during the reign of his

At places like Moreton Hall we see provisions made in the past for enjoying life in the country. Here, the disturbed state of former times is brought vividly to our minds. If one's shoulders are narrow enough, one can creep through a sliding panel, not perceptible to the uninitiated, into a compartment which was once a harbour of refuge to some whose lives were in imminent danger.

Out of this compartment the pursued could pass down a sort of well into an underground passage, and so get away from antagonists.

The beautiful Court Yard is held in admiration by all. How well the wood-



work must have been put together! Can it be over three-and-a-half centuries since those slightly-projecting pegs were driven in by Richard Dale, as is recorded in quaint carvings on the Solid Oak :-

'GOD IS AL IN AL THING
THIS WINDOVS WHIRE
MADE BY WILLIAM MORETON
IN THE YEARE OF OURE LORD MDLIX.
RICHARDE DALE CARPENDER MADE
THIES WINDOVS BY THE GRAC OF GOD.'

The Ball-room, which is on the third storey, has an open-timbered pointed roof, with a thrust upon the walls; and from this thrust the stability of the building, was at one time threatened.

The present owner, however, has had the whole of the premises overhauled; and, as far as possible remedied all defects, of course, paying due regard to the general style of the architecture. Like the Saudbach Crosses, this Hall has a duplicate. About 1890 the Hall at Moreton was in such a neglected state that it was feared the principal parts would collapse. This fear caused a copy to be erected at Bidston Court by R. W. Hudson, Esquire. On his model occurs the following inscription:—

"This house was built by Robert Hudson and Gerda his wife, Anno Domini MDCCCXCI.; these bay windows being copied from those at Old Moreton Hall, in the hope that when they have perished these may remain."

Such an inscription fully explains the existence of a copy. Upon the beams of the Great Hall, will be found these quaint verses:—

"When the trees are white with rime, And the ground is black and bare, Warmth and welcome ye shall finde Underneath these gables faier. Charitie and jolitie Carve on every beam of wood; Mercie, truth, equalitie, Man's eternal brotherhood."

The family, no less than the guests, we cannot but feel, must have been put to great inconvenience (in a general way) during past years, from the absence of corridors. There are four or five staircases, but they do not communicate with every part of the house, and as a consequence, bedrooms on one side could only be reached from the other by crossing the open quadrangle, which on a wet night must certainly have been not the most enjoyable employment imaginable.

On the east side of the court yard is a domestic chapel, the orientation of which has here, as in many cases, settled the aspect of the general building. The nearest station to Moreton is Mow Cop, N.S.R.

### Brereton Hall, A.D. 1300.

AVERY handsome building, lies about two-and-a-half miles from Sandbach.

It is approached through a massive ornamental stone gateway, with adjoining lodge, which is some half-mile distant from the house. The ancient manor was for more than 500 years held by the Breretons' of Brereton, one of the proudest of our country families; first by a succession of eleven Knights through a period of about 400 years, and afterwards by five successive lords or barons, all of whom were lineally descended from Ralph Brereton, of Brereton, who lived in Norman times. Though historians have had much to say that is interesting about Brereton and its lords, they have preserved rather an awkward silence as to the manner in which the stately mansion and its lands passed to other owners in the early part of the 18th century. Some years ago a card with the following unsigned acrostic on it was found:—

Behold how majestic, doth this mansion seem,

Reared closely by the side, of Croco's stream;

Elizabeth, that worthy Queen of this our land,

Rejoiced to see the day she took her stand,

Encircled by the great and noble of her day,

To view while she in regal state did lay

One stone where from it doth so nobly rise,

Now with its tower pointing to the skies.

Her gracious majesty did afterwards a visit pay,

And with Lord Brereton stayed a night and day;

Long as time lasts so will its fame endure;

Like that of good Queen Bess—continue ever sure.

# Oakhanger Hall.

AN ancient mansion on the eastern border of the parish of Haslington, after standing for two centuries, was razed to the ground about eighty years since. To-day its site is occupied by a farm-house, and commands beautiful rural landscapes, in addition to the "Moss"—a bog of considerable extent. Formerly there was a natural mere or lake, some fifty acres in extent; but, by draining, this has been removed, and partially cultivated "holdings" may now be seen in lieu. The Royal Fern (Osmunda R. galis), being in its natural habitat, comes to

great perfection in these parts, which are a favourite resort of county botanists.

"The old Hall of Oakhanger, in Haslington," writes Mr. T. Jones, of Nantwich, "was long the residence of a highly respectable family named Acton, the last possessor being John Acton, gentleman, who for nearly fifty years, was the receiver for the Crewe family of their extensive Cheshire estates, and who died in 1702.

Upon his demise, Oakhanger, through a female heiress, descended to a gentleman named Ready, who resided at the Hall for some years. Here he several times entertained Thomas Moore, the celebrated Irish bard, who there composed his beautiful poem, 'The Tear.'"

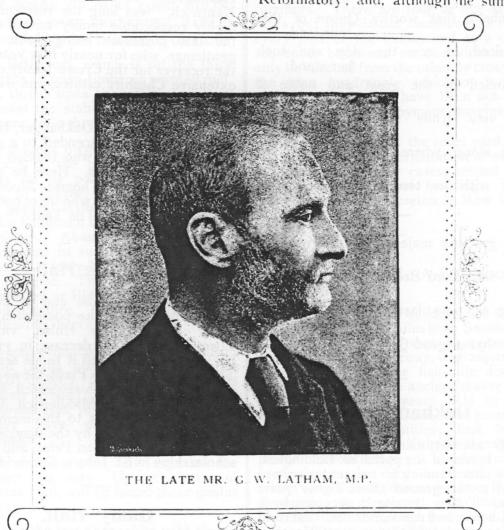
### Elworth Hall

AS, towards the end of the last century, in the possession of the Revd. John Hulse, vicar of Elworth. Upon his decease in 1790, by his will he bequeathed it to his servants, Thomas and Elizabeth Plant, the ancestors of the present much-respected holders and residents. In Middlewich Church there is a monument to the memory of this clergyman, who, by the way, was the founder of the Hulseian Prize, and of two scholarships in St. John's, Cambridge.

## Giddy Hall.

No longer in existence, was the residence of the grandfather of Sir Richard Steele, the celebrated essayist, and the originator of the "Tattler," the "Spectator," and the "Guardian." At that time it was a moated house lying within the present Abbey

Field estate, and doubtless gave name to that long lane (Giddy Lane) which passed near it. Mr. G. W. Latham, whose portrait we give, was well known all through Cheshire. He was the founder of the Bradwall Reformatory; and, although the suffered



### Bradwall Hall.

THIS hall is widely known throughout the county. It came into the possession of Mr. John Latham, M.D., (grandfather of the late Mr. Geo. W. Latham, M.P.) in 1802.

for many years from a most painful malady, he was, nevertheless, a very useful man, and left a splendid record. His death occurred on the 4th of October, 1886, and his funeral was probably the largest public ceremony ever known in his town.

# Clayhanger Hall,

OR, as the name was anciently written, "Clayhonger," gave the surname to a family referred to in the plearolls of Edward II., in the person of Peter, son of John de Cleyhunger.

By purchase, the hamlet passed from the late Revd. Weston Bayley (1817) to John Bridge Aspinall, Esquire, who enlarged the Hall (now converted into a farmhouse, the older portion being much dilapidated) and occasionally resided there. From him it passed to the present owner, Major Littledale.

## Haslington Hall,

HALF a mile east of the village of Haslington, an interesting relic, was formerly the property and occasional residence of the "Vernons," that celebrated Derbyshire family, who figured so prominently both as warriors and statesmen in a past age. Sir Ralph Vernon, styled "the long liver" from his great age, -said to have been 150 years, seems to have been ancestor of the Haslington branch, of whom history has left few particulars. One or two representatives seem to have occupied offices of state, but to have reached no especial distinction. Another, however, bore an active part in repelling the "Great Armada," and a London church of that time contained a monument to his memory inscribed:—

"To the memory of Francis Vernon, Esq.,
of Haslington House,
Cheshire,
etc."

### Sale of a Woman in 1811.

OPY of an Agreement for the Sale or Purchase of a Woman—(verbatim et literatim)—The person who purchased her afterwards died, and the latter part is his (the husband's) case which he brought to this town to have advice upon:—

Mr Samuel Browton December 21 1811. Sir—Thiss is to In Form you that i Betty Browton your wife and Daniel Burges of Fulshaw Whe are Both willing and do agree If you are Willing to meet you where and When you Plase to make agreement with you For The Sade Betty Browton to Quit you for Ever And The sooner the Better for Whe are all unset For Things are Broat to such a State and so far that the sooner it Is Settled The. Better and if you Will fix your Plase of meeting Whe will atend Both of us And Send Word By The Bearer When you In Tend to meet And as Whe Have Sade Before the Sooner the Better and then all the Nise of the Countrey Will Be over And Whe shall All Be Happy And Whe Will make A Firm Agreement Not to In Trude One Anoder No More For Whe Hav Agreed And All Is Setled Whe Will Go And you Shall Deliver her And Whe Will Go With You to Aney Plase Where you Will Fix at The Plase When Met But Whe Was Thinking of Meeting at The Grove In and Delivering at Macclesfield But those Things Whe Can fix When Whe Meet But Whe Will acquint as few Piple as Possobile Whe Can Till all Is over So No More But When Ever you Plase to fix When and Where Whe Will atend for Whe Are Both Sincare About the matter Whe Do not Need to Say Aney Thing about The Monney Or The Prise Not Here Whe Can fix Those Things When Whe Meet—So No more at Present from your Wife

Bettey Browton X Her Mark
Daniel Burgess
As Witness Thomas Simpson X His Mark

the Beaver of Woman to or Husband Not Pot Way But left im and Whent to leave with another man and had three Children By him and Confest Before Men that the Ware is Children And the Man is Ded that She Lived With and New She is Com apon the town Wether the Town Can forse Me to Soport or and Whether if I cannot Pay the Can impreson Me or not And Wether any Man Con old With Paying to Such a woman or not I think that it is Verry Hard

### OLD WHEELOCK.

MORE can be written about the "Ancient Village" of Wheelock than its residents generally are aware of. Dating as it does, at the least, from the time of William the Conqueror, it possesses a greater historic interest than many larger villages (and even towns) in the county.

The township of Wheelock is mentioned in Domesday Book (1086); and, it may be stated, bears there favourable comparison with regard to the extent of its lands, and other matters of minute detail.

The Latin of Domesday Book, with its English Translation, is as follows:—

Latin.

English Translation.

Isdem Ranunlfus tenet
Hoiloch. Morcar
comes tenuit. Ibi III
hidae geldabiles.
Terra est IIII carucatae. In dominio
est una et IIII servi
et II radmans cum
I carucata. Silva ibi
III leuvis longa et
una lata. Tempore

The same Randle holds
Hoilock. Earl
Morcar held it.
There are III hides
rateable to the gelt
(tax). The land is
three carucates, one
is Demesne, and
(there are) four serfs
and two radmans
with one carucate.

regis Edwardi et post wasta fuit. Modo valet XX solidos.

There is a wood three leagues long and one broad. In King Edward [the Confessor's] time and afterwards it was waste. It is now [1086] worth twenty shillings.

The name of the village has, like town-nomenclature generally, undergone changes in the mode of spelling. Above, it is given as "Hoilock." In the Skakerley deeds of 1308 there is a signature, "Thomas de Whelok." In 1316, the village was referred to in the "Cheshire Plea Rolls" etc. as "Qwelok," which is a distinctly curious form. In the same rolls there is mention of one, Amicia, the widow of Randle de "Queloc," as the name was frequently written about 1319. In 1382, we have it spelt "Whelock," and a year or two later, " IVelock." The present spelling originated about the year 1390, and has therefore celebrated its fifth centenary.

Annals of the year 1406 show that "William Venebles of Kinderton, brought two writs against Adam, Son of Adam de

Bostock, and others for taking away the body of Richard, son of John, son of Thomas de Wheelock, and the custody of sixteen messuages &c. which John held of him by Knight's Service, i.e.:—homage 10/- a year; and the jury found for William Venebles."

Richard de Wheelock, June 10th, 1422, entered into recognizance together with William de Venebles of Kinderton and others, in the sum of ten marks, as a fine for his having married Eleanor, the widow of Sir Rd. de Vernon Knt., without the King's licence. In 1430 he was appointed a collector of subsidy in the Northwich Hundred, on June the 11th, 1432, a warrant was issued for him and George de Wevere (Weaver). He died in 1438, and was buried at Sandbach. A tombstone existed in Sandbach Church, in the year 1596, and is said to have been "in the middle of the quire." On it, in brass, was a coat of arms, &c., and a long Latin inscription, which, when translated, is:-

#### A Notable Wheelock Man.

DURING the Civil War, William Liversage, the elder, of Wheelock, espoused the Royalist side, in consequence of which his estate was seized, and he was fined £260. The following is the narrative:—

"William Liversage, the elder, of Wheelock, in the county of Chester, Esq." "His delinquency, that in December, 1643, he deserted his owne howse and went to Kinderton Hall, which was then held against the Parliament, associated with them for the space of about a month (or thereabouts), and sent for divers of his goods and cattle thither, which were secured at the said Hall, and after the seidge was raised at Nantwich, he sent on Ashmold, who was a commander in the said howse, and the said Ashmold went to Chester, unto Mr. Grosvenor, then high Sheriffe of the said County, or to Mr. Thomas Cholmly (who were both active enemies of the state), to make composition with them; and to that end Mrs. Liversage, his wife, went to procure what moneys shee could, and that upon report of the Parliament's army comeing towards the said Hall, he charged and directed some of the souldiers [who were keeping that garrison, where and howe to shoote against them, if they fired first at them in the howse.

That he had taken the National Covenant before Daniell Cawdrey, minister of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and one of the assembly of Divines, the 24th of October, 1645, and petitioned heere and tooke the Negative Oath on 24th of October, 1645.

Yearly value of his estate 160li.

There are these charges on it:-

To Douglas Liversage, 100 marks per annum; William Liversage, his brother, 15li.; Salvage Liversage, his brother, 10li.; Ed. Liversage, 10li.

He owed 1160li. to Ralph Hassall, and 600li. was owing by his father,

then dead.

16 Maii 1646. Fine 260li. [£260.]

He lived in troublesome times, so it is interesting to note that the family of Liversage were among the founders of the Sandbach Charities, of which there were twenty-six original donors. These are the Wheelock names:—

1William Liversage.	Wheelock £10.
2 ,, ,,	junr., ,,£40.
3Hugh Wheelock, of	Wheelock£33.
4Robert Hulse, Who	eelock£2.
5Thos. Moulson, Who	elock£10.

Among the twenty-six gifts, the largest were those of William Liversage, Junr,, £40; and Hugh Wheelock, £33; both Wheelock gentlemen.

#### Wheelock Church.

CHRIST Church, Wheelock, was erected by public subscription in 1836. It was first used for public service unconsecrated; the consecration service taking place 20th February, 1843.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS:-

1843.—Thomas Gardener Morgan. 1870.—John Dobbie, M.A. 1873.—Charles Lane, M.A.

#### Wheelock Hall.

THIS Hall was once a well-built halftimbered building in the Elizabethan style, but is now in an unsatisfactory condition; it has been used as a farmhouse for many years.

Traces of old designs can be found on the stabling and out-buildings,—a window frame of stone, with every evidence of having belonged to an old chapel, can be seen. There is an old coach-house, too, which has a most interesting history.

#### A Query.

AN old record states, that "On Sunday morning, the first of Novemb., 1561, there were three chests of Tinne, or of such like mettal, found neer the River (Wheelock), but nothing in them. On the covers were certain Letters, or characters, engraved; which chests were carried to the Sheriffs."

Does anyone know the whereabouts of these chests?—as the engraved characters might throw some light upon the village antiquities.

### "Wheelock [Lord] Mayor's Feast."

A LIST of the names of the persons taking part in the "Lord" Mayor's Feast, at Wheelock, is here appended:—

Mr. Bennett, Wharfinger.
" Bull. Silk Throwster.

- ", J. Cotton, Farmer and Grocer.
- " Dunville, Saddler. " Hailstone. Grocer and Draper.
  - , M Johnson, Ironfounder.
- Mr. J. Jones, Publican., Pedley, Farmer.
  - , A. Pointon, Publican , T. Stringer, Timber Merchant.
  - Upton, Prewery Traveller.
  - ,, Williamson, Salt Proprietor.

With Mr. J. Farr [hairdresser, etc.,] acting as waiter (he was provided with suitable costume for this particular occasion, by Mr. Williamson).

The feast was generally held at the "New Inn," where the Mayor was elected each year. At this time, Mr. James Jones was the host. It would be interesting to ascertain if any 'Lord' Mayor's procession ever was organized! After the usual toasts had been drunk, village matters were discussed, and bye-laws enacted, which, as far as possible, were enforced in the village. These pleasant annual meetings were discontinued about 1849.

The acting waiter on the above occasion, was of course, locally known as "Barber Farr;" and there are still, perhaps, those

who can remember their feelings of annoyance at being left with one side of the face shaved, while Barber Farr made an excursion somewhere in the region of the "canal," hard by his shaving shop. It has even been said that more than once he continued his explorations near the "canal" for such a length of time, that his client had eventually to remove the cloth, wash his face, and sally forth half-shaven in pursuit.

W.J. Harper

### OLDE HOOLMES CHAPPELL,

#### GOOSTREY AND COTTON.

UNLIKE most Cheshire towns and villages, Holmes Chapel is not mentioned in Domesday Book, so that none of its history prior to the time of William the Conqueror, has reliable authority.

In fact, there is no evidence who were the lords of the manor, even in the 13th and 14th centuries.

The Chapelry consists of three town-ships: 1st.—Holmes Chapel, 2nd.—Cotton, 3rd.—Cranage.

Webb, the historian, writing Anno Domini 1621, says:—

"We next come to Hoolmes Chappell [alias Church Hulme] which is a member of the parish of Sandbach, and a place well known by the church in the same, and also by the scituation, being a waiting place in the great

Road-way out of Lancashire towards London, and where that bridge is built by Jo. Nedham Esquire, whose heir, now Sir Robert Nedham, of Shavington, in the County of Salop, Knight, hath here a Demean of fair lands in his Lordship."

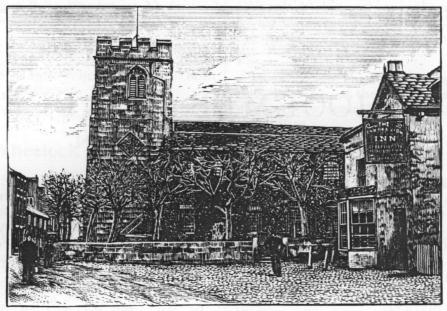
In 1692, the "Red Lion Inn" was advertised in the London Guzette as being "To Let," &c., thus:—"At Hulms Chapel in Cheshire, the Red Lyon Inn, a good accustomed house upon a great road, with very good cellarage, good Store of Stabling, a fair garden, &c., &c.;" and candidates were requested to apply to "Peter Yates, master of the said house." A few years later (1701), this same Inn was again "To Let," it being stated that the "greater part had been newly re-built."

#### A Fire-1753.

T is recorded that on July 10th, 1753, a catastrophe occurred in the village. About ten o'clock in the forenoon, a fire broke out and consumed the whole place, (which consisted of about twenty houses; but, it is added, "with exception of the *Red Lyon*, and two cottages."

It is said this fire broke out so suddenly that the inhabitants had not even time to save their, wearing apparel, much less their furniture. the last century. The interior consists of a nave, two aisles, and a small chancel, at the east end—not separated from the nave by an arch, as is general. Four wooden columns [oak] sustain the roofing of each aisle. The nave has a concave ceiling, which is uncommon; and the aisles have flat ones.

There is, on the south side, and also at the west end, a gallery, which, according to an inscription, was the gift of Thomas Hall, Anno Domini 1705.



ST. LUKE'S, HOLMES CHAPEL.

#### The Church.

GENERALLY, it is believed the church belongs to the period of about 1245; it is probable, however, it existed before that time, though we have very little reliable information.

The church is dedicated to St. Luke. The body of the church is built of brick; in all probability it was erected early in The Tower, which is massively built, dates from the 15th century, and is the oldest part of the building. A belfry in the upper part is a later addition.

The heavy stone pinnacles shown in certain old pictures, were taken down some years ago, on account of their being dangerous to the rest of the building.

There are bullet marks on the lower part of the tower, and it is probable that these were made during the Civil War, when some fighting took place near the church (17th century).

An extract from Burghall's Diary (Royal Soc. of Lancashire and Cheshire) is interesting:—

"Upon St. Stephen's Day, (December 26, 1643), the Parliament Army saving those that were left to keep Nantwich-marched towards Middlewich, Holms Chappel, Sandbach, and those parts, and in Booth Lane met with the enemy, where there was a great Fight; but in the End the Parliament Forces were worsted, and retired to Middlewich. The Enemy following them and driving them quite away, where the Parliamenteers left their Magazines and 200 men that were slain, and taken prisoners. Many were slain and wounded on the other side."

Inside the church at the present time there are no monuments or incised stones, though some existed prior to the Civil War.

In the Harleian M.S. will be found rough sketches of some of these, recorded about 1569.

#### THE PLATE AND BELLS.

One Paten has the following engraved on it:—

"The gift of Thomas Hall, of Cranage, Ironmaster, to the use of the communicants of the Chappelry of this Church for ever. In memory of his dear children (Anna and Cotton Hall). who were both intered in the Chancell of the said Chappell, in the month of Augt., Anno Domini 1700."

The other Paten, the Chalice, and the flayon, bear the inscription:—

"This belongs to the Chappel of Church Hulme."

In 1549, "Holmes Chappell" had one chales [chalice,] and iiii [four] bells; now

there are six bells, four of which were cast in 1709—one was re-cast, and another added later.

The inscriptions on these bells are interesting:—

- 1.-"I'll sally forth Queen Ann's great Worth." 1709-
- 2.—"I'll Marlborough roar from shore to shore." 1769.3.—"Evgene, I'll sovnd thy glory rovnd." 1709.
- 4.—"[When rvng I'll raise brave Ormond's praise;"
  R.S. made me:—1709.] This bell was re-cast by Mears, and now bears the inscription:—"G Mears, Founder, London. 1858."
- Heaven Britain bless, with plenty and peace."
   Ed. Hall, Warden, 1709. Richard Sanders, of Bromsgrove, made vs all 5.
- 6.-G. Mears, Founder, London. 1858.

In the belfry is a small bell, simply bearing date 1706. It is locally known as the "draggle-tail," because it formerly chimed a few minutes before Divine Service began; the people waiting for it before they entered the church.

#### INCUMBENTS, 1579 TO 1888.

The following is a list of incumbents of Holmes Chapel. The stipend is said to have always been small—in 1705, £12 8s.; in 1720, £23 os.; and so on.

Subsequently various sums have been apportioned, or left, to improve the stipend, by numerous donors.

#### INCUMBENTS.

	Ralph Dutton.
	William Ameson.
	Hugh Proudlove.
	Robert Griffin.
	Richard Tipping.
	Rowland Burnett.
	James Norris.
	John Gredge.
	William Armitt.
(1)	Andrew Barnett.

(2) John Ravenshaw. 1657-62 1666-8 John Worthington, D.D. 1668-9 Thos. Pigot. 1669 William Carne. Henry Brerewood. 1672-7 John Okes. 1677 .. John Cooper. 1679 1680-3 loseph Bayley. William Vawdrey. 1686-7 ... 1694 ... Thomas Bullas William Evans, M.A. 1697-8 ... ... Phillip Thomas. 1704 Joseph Harwar. 1707 Hugh Wilshaw, B.A. 1708-23 Edward Dutton 1723 (3) Thomas Hodges, M.A. 1757 1821 Edward Mainwaring, M.A. 1823 John Halsted Poole, M.A. 1825 (5) John Armitstead, M.A. 1849 (4) John Kendall. 1882 ... Henry Granville Barnacle, M.A.

- (1). Note, Andrew Barnett was incumbent during the Civil War, and was turned out in 1649 for not subscribing to the engagement, which was an oath "to be true and faithful to the Common-Wealth as now established without a King or House of Lords." He left Holmes Chapel and became priest at Rodlington, in Shropshire; and in 1662 he became a Nonconformist. He was still alive in 1695, and was then described as "Minister of the Gospel at Daventry." There is no mention of him either in the Holmes Chapel, Sandbach, or Goostrey Registers.
- (2). John Ravenshaw, like his predecessor, was evicted for non-conformity to the disclaiming of King as well as the "Lords." It was in the year 1662 that his ejection took place. Ten years later he was living at Wynbunbury, in Cheshire. On April 30th, 1662, he was licenced to preach in his own house, which house was licenced as a Presbyterian place of meeting. He left Cheshire for London,

where he died.—His biographers say he was a hard student, a good scholar, a useful preacher, and a good christian.

Both these men were remarkable for their integrity and genuine manly bearing, and are selected here for the purpose of conveying some idea of the persecution prevalent at that period.

- (3). Thomas Hodges, M.A., it will be noticed, held the incumbency for sixty-five years, which is a remarkable period for any man to preach or act in any public capacity.
- (4).—The Revd. John Kendall has the next place to Mr. Hodges, during the period of 303 years covered by my list, his incumbency lasting thirty-three years; while the
- (5).—Revd. John Armitstead [afterwards vicar of Sandbach,] was twenty-four years at Holmes Chapel.

#### THE REGISTERS.

The registers date from 1613, but at an earlier period another volume at least existed; that has unfortunately been lost. Many interesting entries may be found in these old books.

#### THE CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS.

Holmes Chapel Churchwardens' Accounts commence in 1716. From a work published by W. T. Barlow in 1853, some curious entries are taken.

I.—" The Clerk's wages for half year, and for whipping dogs out o'-th' Church, IIs. 3d."

Note:—Similar entries are repeated yearly.

2.—"For Foxes' Heads a sum of is. per head was paid."

3.-1721, "Paid 16s. 6d. for a stone font."

1721, "Paid for a licence to enlarge the Church, £3 12s. 8d."

1721, "Paid for two Tankards, and a Salver, 8s. 2d."

4.-1723, " Paid for new Pulpit, £5."

Note:—In 1726, a new Porch and Gallery at the west end, were added.

5.—1732, "Paid for re-building the Chapell Walls, £58 13s.

6.-1733, "Treating the new Vicar of Sandbach, (Mr. Allon) 7s."

7.—1736, "Paid for Painting Church, £20 10s." 8.—1743, "Paid for Killing Sparrows, 4s. 6d."

Note:—In 1744, there are many entries of sums paid to ringers, for celebrating the events of the rebellion, taking of Carlisle, defeat of the rebels, &c., &c.

In each of the four following years, similar sums were again paid.

9.-1794. "Paid for a Bassoon, £2. 2s."

"Paid for a Hautboy, £1 1s."

"Paid for Reeds, 3s."

"To the Goostrey Singers (who probably came over to give Holmes Chapel a start), 3s.

1796, "Paid for dressing Singer's Garland, 2s."

#### THE CHANDELIERS.

In 1893, the Revd. H. G. Barnacle, M.A., the present esteemed vicar of this interesting church, re-established the old custom of lighting at the evening service the chandeliers, which have hung in the venerable building upwards of 200 years; having been put there in the reign of Queen Anne. The time when they were in general use is not known. It is interesting to know they were hung at the time of the Capture of Gibralter, and the completion of St Paul's Cathedral.

It is not generally known that the Revd. John Wesley, accompanied by two friends, on March 16th, 1738, having ridden on horseback from Oxford, partook of dinner at the Red Lion Inn, and it is stated that it was there he preached his first sermon. It has been said that "there is not another village in Cheshire, that can boast of having played such a prominent part in the history of the country, as Holmes Chapel."

#### THE SCHOOLS.

Thomas Hall, of the Hermitage, built two schools, both in Cranage (one before 1708). He charged certain lands with a small endowment, for ten poor boys and ten poor girls. The costumes were to be free gifts,—blue coats and caps, and blue gowns,—and each scholar was to be presented with a Bible on leaving the schools.

#### Cotton Township in Pawn.

THE earliest family name recorded for the township of Cotton, is that of Frazer. It is singular that the first christian name, too, should be Adam, suggesting the first man in creation, (creation of Cotton). His conduct, however, seems to have been not of the best, for he got over head and ears in debt.

Here is an old quotation: "Of whom one, Adam Frazer, pawned the whole village [township] to Roger de Lacy, for eighty marks of silver, to pay his debts with, as

'tis exprest in the deed."

#### Cotton Hall.

AT Cotton Hall there is a very fine "gable" in the black and white style of architecture, (Elizabethan).

### OLD GOOSTREY.

BARNS HAW-CUM-GOOSTREY, like Sandbach, is referred to twice in the Domesday Survey, 1086, and as follows:—

Latin.

et The same V

Isdem Willelmus tenet
Gostrel etlRadulphus
de co. Colben tenuit
ut liber homo. Ibi i
vergata geldabilis.
Terra est ii loum.
Wasta fuit et est.

Ilugo tenet de comite
Gostrel.Godric tenuit
et liber homo fuit.
Ibi iii vergatae terrae
geldabiles. Terra est
i carucata et dimidia.
Waste fuit et est.

The same William [Fitznigel] holds Gostrel and Radulph of him. Colben held it as free man. There is i virgate rateable to the gelt (tax). There is land for two oxen. It was and is waste.

English Translation.

Hugh [de Mars] holds of the Earl [of Chester] Gostrel. Godric held it and was a free man. There are iii virgates rateable to the gelt (tax). The land is one carucate and a half. It always was waste, and is so now.

At the dissolution of the abbey [St. Werburgh's, Chester,] in 1537, "the rents and farms of the manor at Barnshaw" were valued at £48 4s. 1½d. After many disputes, the abbey lands were granted to the Dean and Chapter; but it was arranged that the Barnshaw estates should remain in the hands of the fee farmers, subject to an annual rent of £54 10s. od., payable to the Dean and Chapter. Later, the lands

were sold to Henry Mainwaring, of Carincham, (some time before 1560). Randle Mainwaring subsequently had possession. He died August 20th, 1560; and it is recorded that "he seized the lands and tenements in Barneshawe, Chelford, Goostree, Leighes, Cranache, &c., held of the Queen, in the said abbey of St. Werburgh, at Chester." The lands in Barnshaw and Goostrey remained in the hands of the Mainwarings of Kermincham, until the middle of the last century, when they were sold to the Mainwarings of Peover. A few old Court Leet Rolls of this manor exist, and we take the following as an example of entries relating to Barnshaw:—

"Court [Leet] and View of Frank pledge of Henry Mainwaring, Esq., for his manor and lordship of Barnshawe and its members, held at Goostree before Peter Mainwaringe, gent., steward, on the 20th Oct.; 19, James [1621.]"

Inquisition taken at Goostree, by the Oath of Humphrey Page, gent., John T. Foster, Innkeeper, and eleven others, for a jury. This jury makes fines for assaults, &c., and presents that "lez butts" in the village of Barnshawe-cum-Goostree are out of repair. Chelford, Hulse, Plumbley, and over Tabley were under the jurisdiction of this Court.

#### The Chapelry of Goostrey,

NCLUDES (1) Goostrey-cum-Barnshaw, (2) Blackden, (3) Twemlow, (4) Lees. Singularly enough, the first and last of these townships are referred to in Domesday Book, and both have two paragraphs. I have quoted above, those of Barnshaw.

It is most probable no church existed in any of these townships at the time the Domesday Survey was taken, [1086] as no mention is made of any therein.

#### Goostrey Church.

In the Bishop's Registry at Lichfield, there is a copy of a licence from Bishop Roger de Norbury, dated May the 6th, 1350, granting permission for the inhabitants of Goostrey [apud hameletum de Gostr] to bury their dead in the chapel [yard] on account (1) of the distant situation of the mother-church, at Sandbach, and (2) the inundations (of the river Dane), and other difficulties in carrying the bodies to their Parish Church; and (3) because the bodies so detained had frequently become decomposed.

The fees, however, had still to be paid to the vicar of Sandbach, (then Johes de Tydrinton).

The date of erection of this church cannot be fixed, although it is probable it was built early in the 13th century. In 1352, "Thos. de Gostre" had enfeoffed (endowed) the church at Gostre with an annual rent of 13s. 4d., issuing out of his lands in Gostre, for ever,

Few references to this church prior to 1405 are to be found. In this year, one William de Eton, then aged forty, refers to an event on the feast of All Saints (November 1st), 9, Richard II. (1385), when his five brothers "were slain at Gostre, and buried in the chapel [yard] there."

From an interesting agreement made on June 13th, 1617, it appears that the church was built in the black and white style. It consisted of a nave and chancel, and "a certain out ile (aisle) on the South side of the Chancell," which belonged to the Booths', of Twemlow. The old building gave place to the present one in 1792, and has since been renovated and slightly altered internally, (1876).



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### OLD LITTLE PEOVER.

"A little nonsense now and then,
Is relished by the wisest men."

Cheshire Prophet.

NETHER, or Little Peover, is in the hundred of Bucklow: the manor of which, as well as that of Great Peover township, have been from time immemorial held in moieties; these have passed through the same hands. A moiety of Great and Little Peover passed by successive sales from the family of De Peover, to those of Harwarden, Bonetable, Motterly, and Grosvenor, and by marriage (about the reign of Edward IV.) from Grosvenor to the ancestors of Sir John Leicester, Bart., of Tabley, who was the proprietor according to Magna Brittania, in 1810.

Another Imoiety of Great and Little Peover was anciently in the family of Poole, or de-la-Poole, from which it passed in the reign of Henry VII. to the Holfords.

Mary, daughter and heir of George Holford, having married Sir Hugh Cholmondesley, of Cholmondesley, a lawsuit arose between this lady and the heir male of Holford, which after forty years' litigation was determined by a friendly award, the result of which was the above mentioned moiety of Great and Little Peover. Several other estates were also divided between them. The Chapelry of

Nether Peover, which is four miles from the Parish Church of Budworth, was originally built in the reign of Edward III. A description of this most interesting church is given on page 50.

In the Skakerley aisle is a fine monument to Sir Geoffrey Skakerley, an eminent Royalist, who was several times imprisoned during the Civil Wars. He was appointed by Charles II. governor of Chester Castle, and died in 1696. An interesting anecdote is told of this gallant knight. It is said he conveyed a message from Sir Marmaduke Langdale, from Rowton Heath to the King in Chester; to accomplish which, he ferried himself over the Dee in a wooden tub, with a batting staff for an oar. It is further added that he engaged to deliver such orders as the King might entrust him with, to Sir Marmaduke, in a quarter of an hour, but that such delays were made by certain persons about the King, that no orders were sent for several hours, to which the disastrous result of the Rowton Heath fight is attributed.

The parish of Lower or Little Peover consists of four townships, Great and Little Peover, Plumley, and Allostock. The

population is scattered, and on the boundary of the Rudheath lordship; the parish consists of waste land, but is well wooded. This district for many years (when the salt duties were excessive) became the harbour of a gang of men, under the command of the notorious "Romper Lowe."

They stole salt from the neighbouring towns of Northwich, Winsford, and Middlewich; and, like smugglers, carried on an illicit trade with the surrounding country. The population of Allostock was demoralized by contact with this band, and the leader was dreaded, and treated with a "glass" by persons who should have shunned all intercourse with such a character.

At this time the Revd. John Holme came to Little Peover as Incumbent. He found the school in a sadly neglected state, requiring much repair; and to this gentleman's untiring and life-long work, the inhabitants of Little Peover owe a debt of gratitude which they can never repay.

Over the school door will be found a stone tablet bearing the inscription:—

Latin.

English Translation.

Deo et Ecclesiae hanc Domuzculam iu usam scholae humilimae dedecat. Ri Comberbach, 1710. Postea dolavit, £645.

This house (for school use) is humbly dedicated to God and the Church (Congregation). Richard Comberbach, 1710. Afterwards he endowed it (to the amount of £645).

Mr. Holme personally undertook the duties of Schoolmaster, as well as the Incumbency of the parish, and turned his attention to the exact wishes of the donor with such results as proved very gratifying.

In 1892, this school was again in a dilapidated condition, but was put into repair, the original style of the building

being carefully maintained; and it is worthy of record, that the inhabitants generally subscribed, and otherwise provided funds for this work to be done. The building is now used as a girls' school.

The reader will be able to form some idea of the Founder's spirit, by the following extract from his will:—

"On the 18th day of June, 1720, Richard Comberbach, of Little Peover, Clerke, being weak in body, but of sound and disposing mind, praised be God for the same, left a portion of his personal estate, amounting to £400, together with a residue, for the founding and maintenance of a Schoolmaster, or Schoolmasters."

The sum was to be laid out in lands, and an endowment provided for the master "for teaching and instructing all such poor children free, that shall inhabit within the Chapelry of Lower Peover, whose parents have not more than £10 per annum in lands or tenements, or an equivalent thereto."

A fourth of the income was given by his wife's request "for repairs, and to buy spelling books, psalters, New Testaments, Prayer Books, and Bibles, for such children to be taught to read English perfectly, and to repeat the Church Catechism by heart, and to give them their books upon going away."

The Schoolmaster's house was built in the year 1770, but it has been enlarged; and in various ways improved, and is now a comfortable and cosy residence.

The new schools were erected in 1874, on land given by the late Lord de Tabley; who gave also £200. The endowment of the school furnished £1000, the remainder being raised by subscription.

The schools are managed by eight governors.

#### Charities.

THE family of Somerford, according to Mr. Roscoe (1840), left £200 or more for the purpose of assisting poor parishoners to apprentice their children to various trades. The distribution of this gift was placed in the hands of the overseers.

#### BREAD CHARITIES.

Richard Comberbach, left (in 1720), 12s. for bread, to be distributed each Sunday.

Jane Parker left (in 1737), the sum of £52, the income from which was to be spent in bread. Also, two other gifts:—(1) for the erection of a school house, the master to pay £4 10s. as rent; (2) ten twopenny loaves every Sunday, Good Friday, and Christmas Day.

Davenport Meir left (in 1784), £12, the income from which was to provide gifts of bread every Sacrament Sunday.

Lord-de-Tabley, through his agent, pays 12s. to the clergyman, who distributes six twopenny loaves every first Sunday in the month.

#### Churchwardens' Book.

E extract the following from the Churchwardens' Book, which bears the date of 1698, and contains many matters of interest.

"Some Ancient Customs of the Parochial Chapel of Nether Peover, one of the daughters of the Ancient Mother Church of Great Budworth. This Chapel was first erected in the reign of King Henry the Third, by the parishoners, and dedicated to S.

Oswald, about the year of grace 1296. whose Feast of Dedication, commonly called the Wakes, was celebrated yearly on the fifth day of August, through this Parish (that is, Nether Peover Parish, comprehending Allostock. Nether Peover-cum-Little Peover, and Plumley). This Oswald was King of the Northumbrians, slain in battle the fifth day of August, Anno Domini 642, at Oswaldestry, in Shropshire, by Penda, the Pagan King of Mercia. Unto this Oswald, Bede, in his history of England, ascribeth many miraculous stories, who, being a pious King, and dying in defence of the Christian Religion, was canonized for a Saint, and afterwards were many churches and chapels founded in honour of him."

"After sundry repairs of this chapel since the first foundation, it may be found in the Register Book of the same Chapel, that the steeple thereof was built of stone, Anno Domini 1562, John Boden being then the Master Workman"

The tower has no architectural beauty, but is substantially built; it formerly contained a small peal of bells, which are described in the popular rhyme:—

"Higher Peover Kettles, Lower Peover Pans, Knutsford Sweet Roses, Rostherne Great Drones."

In 1853, the Peoverites determined to do away with this reproach, and so had the bells re-cast.

For many years it has been the custom of the Sandbach bell ringers to visit Lower Peover, at least once a year, and play changes on the bells there.

The Sandbach Brass Band (Mr. J. Bagnall, Bandmaster), Major Peers, and

others, have, for a long period, paid visits to this church, to render assistance at annual gatherings, &c. Many Sandbach musicians will remember the hospitable and highly esteemed Mr. Geo. Bell, with his very excellent wife, whose hospitality is boundless where Sandbach folk are concerned.

Other extracts from the Churchwardens' Books are:—

"Memorandum.—That the second deed or grant for the Church living was made by Hugh Lawton, Sir Francis Leicester s clerk, and he was paid for drawing the same deed, one pound and five shillings by the churchwardens, viz.:— Thomas Barrow, George Hale, Francis Darlington, Richard Postles; and at that time there were chosen seven new trustees by Sir Francis Leicester, for the better security of the aforesaid Church living, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and five."

"Memorandum.—That the worshipful Peter Skakerley, of Hulme, Esq., and Governor of Chester Castle, gave the pulpit hangings, valance and cushion of green velvet, when the Revd. Richard Comberbach was minister at Peover, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and one."

"Memorandum.—That in the year of the aforesaid, the worshipful Robert Cholmondesley, of Hulme, Esq., gave for the Communion Table a carpet and cushion of crimson velvet, and a large Common Prayer Book."

In ancient times the floor of the nave was spread with rushes; and when permanent seats were introduced is uncertain. The seats in this church are worthy of careful inspection, both as regards the quality, and beauty of their timber (oak); and the box-like side pews, together with many other peculiarities, are most interesting. A curious record has been found in an old parish book, with regard to the pews

"The Seats of the Chapel of Little Peover were divided and disposed of by us, the Commissioners, whose names are subscribed according to this model or platform, by virtue of a commission directed to us from the Lord Bishop of Chester, February 7th, 1639."

Robert, Lord Viscount Cholmondesley, Sir Peter Leicester, Bart.,

Commissioners.

#### Interesting Epitaphs.

N Little Peover's sacred acre will be found many curious and interesting stone inscriptions.

For instance:-

(1).—John Simpson, Died 1852.

"A brave butcher in his day."

(2).—Mary and James Barlow, died 1801.
"Parents of 12 Children, with 77 Grandchildren;
137 persons in the space of 58 years."

On another stone the following appears:—

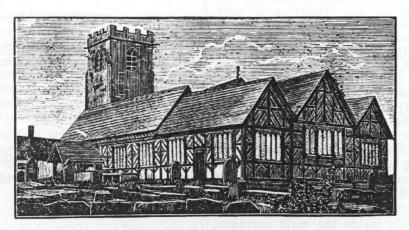
(3)." In this world is many a crooked street,
And the grave is the place where all must meet;
If life were merchandise, which gold could buy,
The rich alone would live, the poor must die."

#### LITTLE PEOVER .- continued.

(PERSONAL).

T is interesting to note here, that Mr. George Bell, senr., can call to mind the "Peover Wakes" of seventy years ago; and it seems that his present posting yard did duty then for the exciting pastime of Bear-baiting, a high hedge forming a boundary for those witnessing the fight. A large walnut tree grew hard by, and this made the requirements of the sport complete.

aged eighty-two and eighty-three respectively, and another man eighty-nine. Within the same radius there were also fifteen to eighteen persons whose average age was eighty years. It must be remembered that the locality has always been thinly populated, and this speaks volumes for the healthfulness of Little Peover.



LITTLE PEOVER CHURCH.

The same gentleman can also remember "Bull Fights" at the "Crown," not far away.

In the year 1892, within a radius of one and a half miles from Tabley Arms Hotel, Little Peover, there were two brothers,

#### Little Peover Church.

Upon its walls see changes vast! Yet, Lower Peover holds Its ancient style, from ruthless blast Of moderns modern modes.

#### GUIDE TO INTERIOR.

VISITORS to this picturesque spot should note the vicarage on coming up the drive to the church. It was built about the year 1876, and is in the half-timbered style.

Emerging from the narrow high-hedged road, one comes on a pretty view,—the old schools to the left, and the new schools on the right, the pretty Lych gate making a centre, and the beautiful church in the background.

The Lych gate was erected and opened on Easter-day, 1884. It was designed by J. Douglas, and is in perfect harmony with the surroundings. The following inscription will be found on the centre beam:—

"Grant, O Lord, that through the Grave and gate of death, we may Pass on to our joyful resurrection."

The porch on the south side has been restored in admirable style. Entering the church by the tower (which, it will be remembered, was built in 1562, by John Boden, and is therefore 332 years old), notice (1) the article nailed on the belfry door, and (2) that the six bells are tolled from the ground floor. The bells have no inscriptions on them, and it would be difficult to ascertain their weight, all marks being obliterated. They were put up in 1853, at a cost of £260, as I have before stated on page 48.

Immediately inside the main entrance, to the left is a handsomely carved oak box, said to be the work of the Hon. Miss Warren, one of Lord de Tabley's sisters. It bears the inscription:—"He that hath pity on the poor, lendeth to the Lord."

A little further down the church is another oak box, carved too, said to be the work of Mr. Buckley, of Davenham. Both these boxes are black.

Passing on to the font, which is supposed to have been in the church at least 300 years, a rustic arrangement for raising the massive oak lid is worthy of notice, and there is no trace of the heavy lid having been let down carelessly, suddenly, or accidentally, so as to cause damage to the top of the font. A story is told of Peter Falkner, who was general factorum for a lifetime, and a devoted attaché to the late Revd. John Holme (vicar). It will be seen that the oak pillar supporting the roof is partly decayed, immediately opposite the font level, and old Peter had it that this had been brought about by the custom that formerly prevailed of dipping the children overhead into the water, causing them to make a splash on the pillar.

#### NORTH AISLE.

While at the font, notice to the west a stained glass window, which is very handsome, inserted by the subscriptions of persons who had been baptized at this font; and on the pillar referred to, will be seen two rustic shelves with these inscriptions:—

(1)" Blessing and Bread for the Poor."
EUCE (use?) R.C. 1722.

(2)" Blessing and Bread for the Poor."

Jane Parker.

Also two brass plates bearing dates 1700, and 1737, with Latin inscriptions on them.

Passing along the north aisle, it will be seen the side pews have a box-like appearance. It is said that, in these, rushes were anciently spread for the feet of

worshippers. On many of the pew doors of this aisle, as well as in other parts of the church, will be found the "arms of the Skakerley family."

Near the organ, is another stained glass window, which was erected in memory of "L. Meres." The present organ was built in 1880. It stands in what was formerly known as the Holford Chapel, and was divided from the chancel by an open oak screen, quaintly carved, bearing (in the centre, facing west), the date 1624. This screen can be seen in the vestry, at the west end of the north aisle.

#### THE CHAINED BOOK.

In the chancel it will be interesting to notice the chained Book:—"The defence of the apoligiy of the Church of England." Amongst so much modernism it is refreshing in these days to come across such an exemplary relicas the Stand, Chain, and Book, in this church. There are so few to be found in Old England to-day, that this almost perfect relic, remaining where it was, and evidently once used, in some part of the ordinary services, reads us a historical lesson only possible on rare occasions.

"A Bible and chain, chain and Bible stand and chain, are here and there kept as curiosities, though often-times not in a church, but, this Book, Chain and Stand, belong to the church, a fact that makes this Little Peover relic more noteworthy."

On the *south side* of the chancel are two old brass plates, to the memory of members of the Cholmondesley family.

The handsome east window was put in to the memory of the Revd. John Holme, M.A., to whom I have referred.

#### SOUTH AISLE.

There are here some handsome white marble tablets, chiefly to the memory of members of the Skakerley family. They are worthy of minute examination.

On the east wall of this chapel there is a hand, carved in relief, and showing the palm. It has not been discovered what is meant to be indicated, nor how it came to be placed in the wall.

The largest tablet makes reference to the gallant knight who forded the river Dee in a "tub:" the incident we have related on page 46.

Over the top of the tablet is a helmet, etc., which, it is averred, this gallant knight wore on the occasion named.

The "Old Oak Chest" should be examined, and the lid lifted with one hand. It is said that all young ladies (spinsters), before getting married, had to lift this lid, with a single hand, "to prove that they were able-bodied, strong, and fit to move heavy cheese about" with ease, &c., &c.

Looking west from this chapel, the oak cross-beams in the roof will be seen to bear some curious carvings; and some curious "village blacksmith's" work, in the shape of latches on the pew doors, may be seen below.

In the nave of the church, a pew belonging to Lord-de-Tabley, attracts notice, from its being so well carved, and from the age and colour of the fine black oak. While here, look back upon the pulpit, with its curiously devised panels and carvings, supposed to date from Charles II. The strong black oak pillars and arches supporting the roof, were, before the year 1852, actually lathed over, plastered and whitened.

In February, 1852, an appeal was made, and money raised for the restoration, which was completed, and the church reopened on December 19th, the same year.

Prior to this restoration, there was a gallery at the west end of the nave, which was originally occupied by the Leycester family, and afterwards for many years used as an organ loft. There are two handsome stained glass windows in the south aisle.

The general appearance of the church, both internal and external, is now the same as in the original structure.

A local poet of the time (1852), who was also a great angler, wrote a powerful appeal, from which I quote the following paragraph.

"Now Friends,

What you do to me [the church] do well. Examine the timbers used by your ancestors:—

and
Talk not of Syrian cedar,
Nor yet of foreign pine,
And mention not the timber
Of any other clime.
But see your native oak
In noble grandeur stand;
The dread of every sea,
The glory of our land."

PETER FALKNER.

LOWER PEOVER, April 3rd, 1852.







#### PERSONAL.

In closing this book, I wish gratefully to acknowledge the kindness and good-feeling that has met me on every hand, during the collection of the matter herein contained.

To Dr. Chas. Latham and to Mr. W. H. Dickinson, I am personally indebted for the loan of valuable books of historical importance: to H. Nunn, Esquire, of Lawton Rectory, and to his respected father, the Revd. S. Nunn, for kind services: to the Revd. H. G. Barnaele, M.A. Vicar, and to Mr. Williams, and Mr. John Falkner, all of Holmes Chapel, for help relative to their town's addenda: to the Revd. Arthur Guest, Vicar of Little Peover, for an original contribution: also to the host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. George Bell), of the "Tabley Arms" Hotel, and to their family, for much kindness, and many useful hints.

To each of these, and to all others who have in any way helped forward my research into the particulars of the past, I tender my sincere thanks; and should my primary object—that of reinvigorating a healthy interest in *local* history—be attained, I trust they, with myself, will feel amply rewarded.

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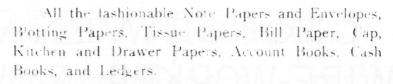
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